

GLOBAL POT REPORT

HIGHTIMES

December 14/3

TOP 10 STRAINS OF THE YEAR

Growing Ganja
for Pain Relief

Blazin' Arizona
Pot Co-Ops
Crop Up

Buds
on the Ballot

Weed Wars
Harborside
Fights
the Feds

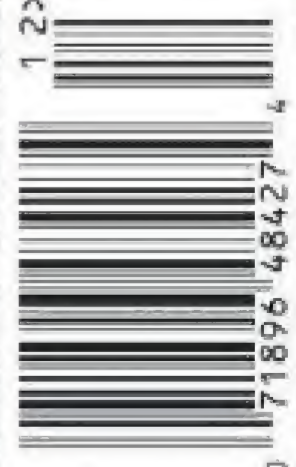
Dr. John
Can His Voodoo
Magick Save
the Gulf?

Slightly Stoopid's
New Joint

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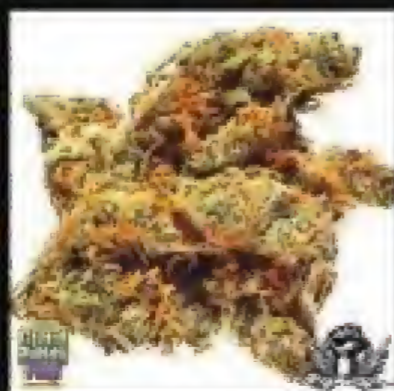
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HIGH TIMES DECEMBER



Skywalker OG Kush

These dense nugs, covered with lots of swollen resin glands, produce some of the tastiest, most potent hash we've ever tried.

—Top 10 Strains of 2012, page 60

- 6 Internet**
- 8 Editor's Letter**
- 10 Letters**
- 12 Contact High**
- 19 Highwitness News**
Pro-pot candidates, the High Five & Global Beat
- 27 Entertainment**
Slightly Stoopid has a new album; R.I.P. Pakelika; Plus: Band of the Month, Reviews ... and more!
Food (p.34)
Clinic (p.36)
Gear (p.38)
Markets (p.40)
- 99 Dear Danko**
- 106 Ask Dr. Mitch**
- 108 Adventures in the Counterculture**
- 110 Almost Infamous**
- 112 NORMLizer/ FFOTM**
- 120 Pix of the Crop**
- 126 Next Month**
- 132 The Pot 40**

45 The 2012 Global Pot Report

It's that time of year again, when *High Times* submits its comprehensive look at the best 2012 had to offer. Compiled by the cultivation department, this year's Global Pot Report features news on strains, grows and harvests from the world's biggest marijuana markets. With correspondents checking in from all over the planet, here's a look at the past, present and future of pot on planet Earth.

54 Blazing Arizona

Visit a unique rent-a-tent cultivation facility in Arizona that teaches qualified caregivers how to grow their own medicinal cannabis. Learn about the evolving politics of medical marijuana in the Grand Canyon state, where safe access was approved by a narrow margin of voters. *By Elise McDonough*

60 Top 10 Strains of 2012

Senior cultivation editor Danny Danko breaks down the 10 most tasty, potent and pungent pot varieties of this year. What strains will you be hunting for in 2013? Bonus: *HT* readers pick their favorites!

74 The Medicine Man

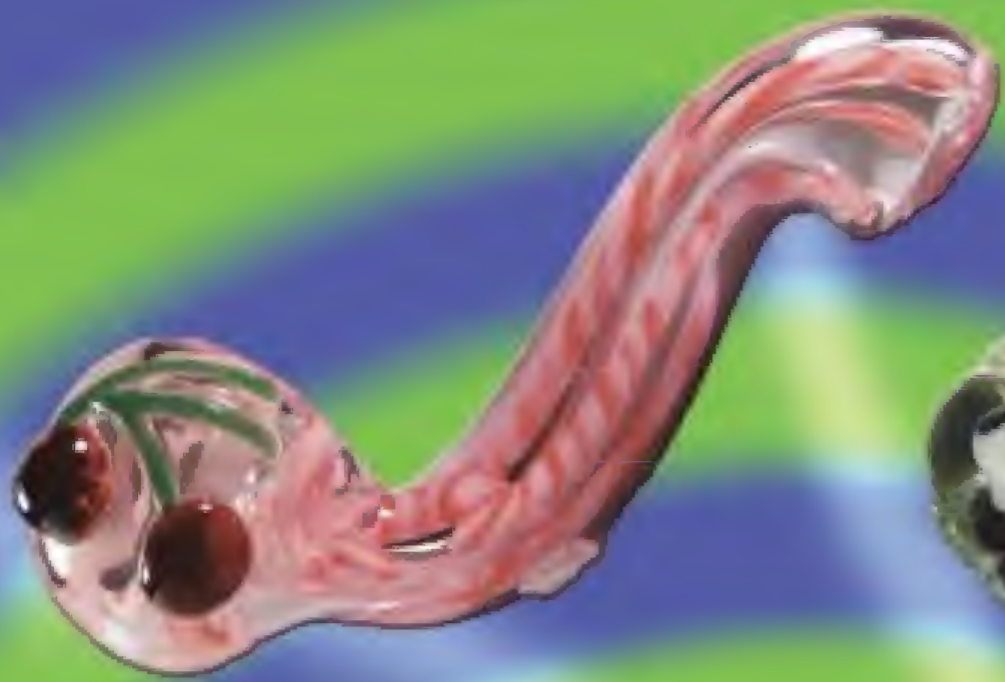
There are many types of growers out there these days, from the small home hobbyist to the large-scale commercial operator. But there is also a distinction between growing for your head and growing serious meds. This medicinal growroom demonstrates a clean and simple approach to producing high-quality medicine and potent cannabis. *By Freebie*

82 The Revelation of Dr. John

Inspired by a dream, Soulfire for the Gulf was a magick healing ritual. Two years after BP's *Deepwater Horizon* Gulf oil spill, the legendary musician hopes that the spirits of New Orleans can accomplish what man and machine thus far have not. *By Chris Simunek*

90 High Times Interview with Steve DeAngelo

The head of Harborside Health Center, America's largest medical cannabis dispensary, explains how and why he's fighting back against the federal government's misguided California crackdown. *By David Bienenstock*



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► **Stoner Girls Next Door**

Editorial director and top pot-ographer Dan Skye dips into his prodigious archive of marijuana photos and shares a gallery of everyday women enjoying God's gift of ganja. Go to hightimes.com/stonergirls



► **Laugh Your Grass Off**

The *High Times* comedy team posts new audio laughs online weekly. Check out "Marijuana's March Through History." You won't believe how many famous people were high! hightimes.com/tags/laugh_your_grass_off

► **HT Newsletter**

Subscribe to the *High Times* newsletter. Get political updates, hot stoner news, event info and enter our weekly photo contest. It's your direct link to our world—and it's free! hightimes.com/newsletter

► **Pot 40 Wants YOU!**

Be a part of counterculture history and send in your favorite band, quote or shout-out—whatever your favorite stoner thing is—to the Pot 40. If your idea makes the cut, our top illustrator Cosmo will include it on the magazine's monthly Pot 40 page. Email entries to: pot40@hightimes.com or snail mail your entry to *High Times* Pot 40, 419 Park Ave. South, 16th Floor, New York, NY, 10016.

POT POLL

Our most recent web poll asked: "Which celeb would you most like to smoke a joint with?" The top ten choices were stars who have made favorable statements about pot and more than 1,200 of you responded.

We had a pretty good idea who our top three vote-getters would be. Snoop is a modern stoner icon, while Tommy and Willie should both be canonized as cannabis saints. Megan Fox scored high with our audience as well. No surprise there.

And how about Miley Cyrus topping Bill Maher? Brash, young Miley has made no secret of her affection for pot and openly visits dispensaries in L.A. Maher may be a toker and a vocal supporter, but he often says snarky shit about stoners. Who'd wanna smoke with someone like that?

- Snoop Dogg...18.6%**
- Tommy Chong...16.8%**
- Willie Nelson...15.4%**
- Megan Fox...14.7%**
- Joe Rogan...9.2%**
- Woody Harrelson...8.7%**
- Miley Cyrus...6.2%**
- Bill Maher...5.8%**
- Lady Gaga...2.5%**
- Roseanne Barr...2.1%**

This month, vote on your favorite way to consumer cannabis. Go to hightimes.com/polls



Miss December 2012

NAME: **Vicky**
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The Best Pot on Earth

Yes, that's quite a bold claim, but after spending a decade here at *High Times*, I think we're the ones best poised to make it. After all, we travel the world in search of the highest-quality cannabis strains, whether we're in Amsterdam for our annual Cannabis Cup or in the hills of Humboldt County, CA, during harvest. Now we've added four yearly domestic Medical Cannabis Cups to our roster, as well as my colleague Nico Escondido's state-of-the-art judging system, which factors lab testing into the final results along with the judges' score sheets. I guess you could say that testing and rating pot strains is our business—and business is good!

Cannabis genetics have come a long way since the days of the raspy, brown-leaved centerfolds in the late 1970s. These days, we can find power-packed *indicas* to soothe bodily aches in the evening as well as racy *sativas* that inspire expansive thinking, giddy laughter and everything in between during daylight hours. The variety of odors and flavors can be hard-hitting, such as the lemony fuel zing of Sour Diesel, or as subtle as a fine wine, like the evocative sandalwood hints of a well-cured Haze.

Which brings us to our Top 10 Strains of the Year (page 60). In every December issue, we

reveal the marijuana varieties that we couldn't get enough of in the previous 365 days. Some took home prizes, while others tested so high in THC that they could not be denied. New strains are important to the cannabis gene pool, and the biodiversity of bud relies on finding those new varieties as well as preserving the heirloom strains that are the building blocks of all new genetics.

Also in this issue, our annual Global Pot Report reveals what's happening with cannabis around the world. Medman teaches how to grow for cannabinoid products, while Elise McDonough reports on the state of the medical marijuana scene in Arizona. There's also a piece by *HT* editor-in-chief Chris Simunek on Dr. John and his mission to heal the oil-stricken Gulf of Mexico, as well as an in-depth interview with Harborside Health Center dispensary head (and *Weed Wars* star) Steve DeAngelo.

All in all, it's another pot-packed issue with something for everyone, from growers and smokers to entrepreneurs and activists. So light one up, dig in and enjoy our year-end extravaganja!

Kindest Regards,

Danny Danko
Senior Cultivation Editor

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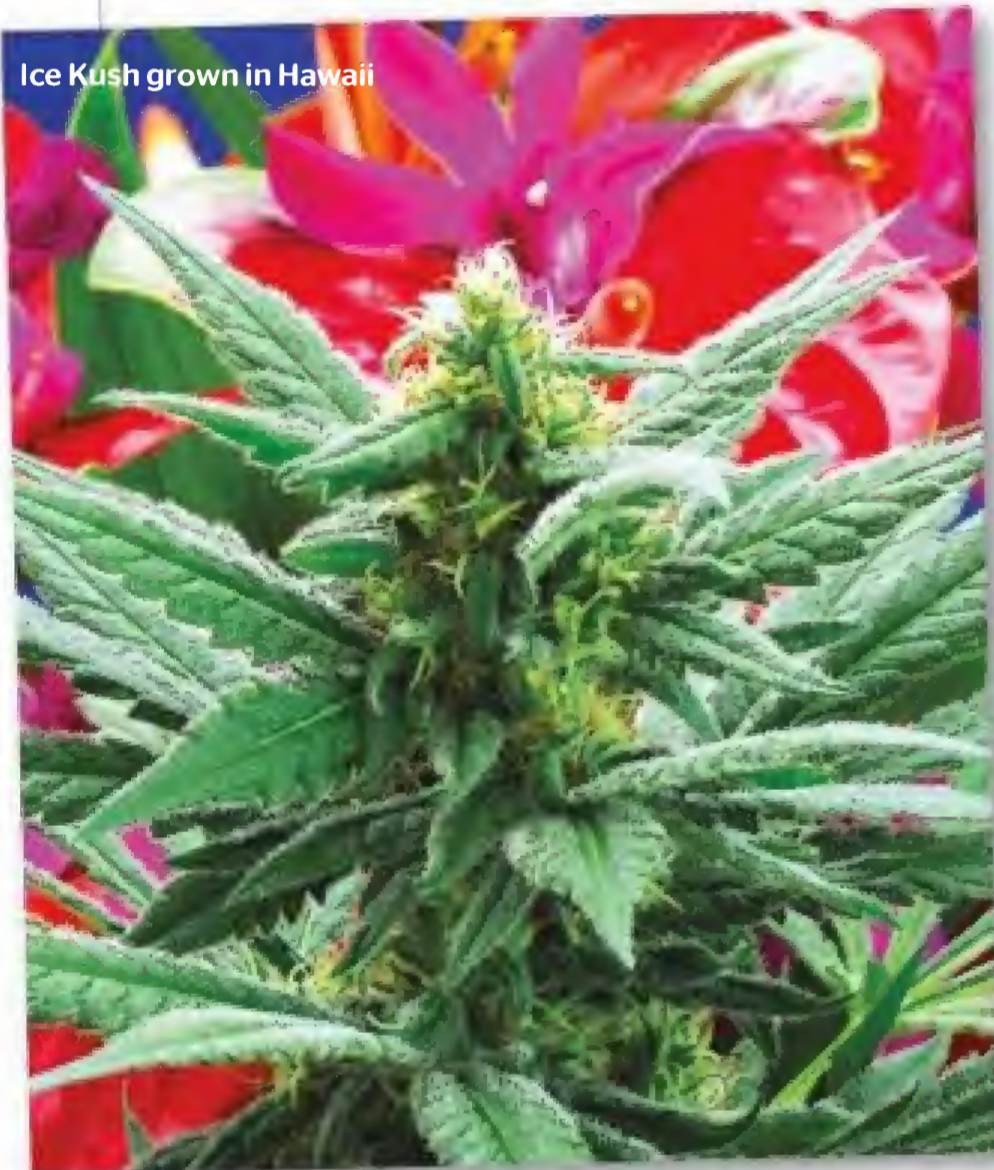
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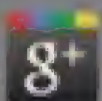
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Amsterdam's Ban on Pot Tourism

I really feel for the coffeeshop owners. I was in Amsterdam in May and had a wonderful time. They depend on tourism and the American dollar. It's a fun place. But it won't be much fun for anybody if we can't smoke pot—that's the reason I went! Is there anything else we can do to protest this?

Ann

That's a shame, really. Amsterdam has long been a symbol for mature marijuana use—as well as what the future could potentially hold for Americans if our government wasn't so preoccupied with controlling everything we do in our private lives. I hope this new policy doesn't last long, but there's really no telling what's on the horizon. I guess for the time being we'll just have to settle with smoking behind closed doors while the politicians we hire do the same damn thing. Hypocrisy at its finest!

We should legalize marijuana here so we don't have to worry about what happens in Amsterdam. We could start opening smoke shops in Starbucks, drinking mocha lattes while toking on some White Widow and using the free WiFi to read more articles on *High Times*. That sounds like a future we can all agree on, am I right?

B.Z.

First off, our 25th Cannabis Cup will not be affected. However, if the government gets its way, the "weed pass" will become national policy next year. It would turn coffeeshops into private clubs with membership open only to Dutch residents and limited to 2,000 per shop. We're optimistic that the weed pass will be greatly modified. As we go to press, elections are scheduled following the collapse of the Dutch government in April. Perhaps a new administration will see the folly of the policy which, observers agree, will only cause a resurgence in the marijuana black market.

Top 10 Stoner Schools

I am writing about the issue (October '12) featuring dabs! First, I must say that it was a great issue, but I also have to be pissed off as a graduate of Humboldt State University. You didn't even think our university should be put on the list of Top 10 Stoner Schools? Seriously? All I have to say is: "Wow"

Tom

Pot vs. Big Pharma

It seems that in order to get cannabis legalized, someone or something will



We should legalize marijuana here so we don't have to worry about what happens in Amsterdam.

have to rein in the pharmaceutical industry, as they are the ones that would lose a significant amount of their ridiculously high profits and overall control. The industry has a lot to lose and a huge amount of power and influence, as well as the financial resources to support whichever policies suit its interests. It is providing medicine, but not the medicine that is best for patients; instead, it's the medicine that makes the industry the most money. I use marijuana for medical purposes, and in three months it has made a huge difference—so much so that I've been taken off several other prescription drugs.

The pharmaceutical industry has a lot to answer for, as they have clearly been allowed to get too big and powerful!

Emily in the UK

Feeling Left Out in Texas

I'm a 21-year-old smoker in a tiny town here in good ol' Texas. I'm a pretty young toker, but I'm already aware and have been around the stuff for the majority of my life. I know that my "medicine" is 100 percent illegal here, and since the town I'm in has a population of less than 4,000, it's hard to get hold of the good stuff—and when you do, the prices are outrageous. Plus, since the cops around here get boners over busting people for less than a gram, it's way too sketchy to bring home. The sad part is,

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it's not even great-quality stuff.

I've been reading your articles and watching your documentaries on the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, and I'm completely and utterly jealous of each and every person that gets to go. Not only because I've hardly left Texas in my whole life (not to mention the States), but because of all those glamorous-sounding strains I keep hearing about.

You see, I'm not used to smoking stuff with kick-ass names like Strawberry Cough or Lemon Haze or anything like that. The stuff we get around here goes by names like "Dirt" and "Schwag." When I read articles where people say, "Oh, it's a very fruity-tasting hit," I have no idea what they're talking about. Don't get me wrong: I'm very grateful for the medicine I do get my hands on, but in the back of my mind, I'm thinking there's so much more to smoking weed. I know I'm not asking

any relevant questions or anything here—more of a ramble, if you will. I guess what I'm trying to say is that you should remind your readers to be as grateful as I am, no matter what the quality of the medicine they're smoking. Because, trust me, it could be so much worse.

Keep doing what you do, *High Times*.

Morgan

Best 4/20 Ever in Denver

As a former Denver resident, it's always good to be back up on the rock. This 4/20 had a double whammy for me with the *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup on the same weekend. Damn, I had a great time—Civic Center Park was smokin' as usual, and Too Short tore it up! You see, it's like this: Put together all of the 4/20s I've attended, and they've included thousands upon thousands of people but maybe only a few minor incidents. I don't hear any of the politicians, mass media or other haters giving props where props are due. That's really fucked up.

On Saturday at the *High Times* event, I met some really good folks and had a great time. Big props to Denver, *High Times* and the Green Man! Hope to see you again.

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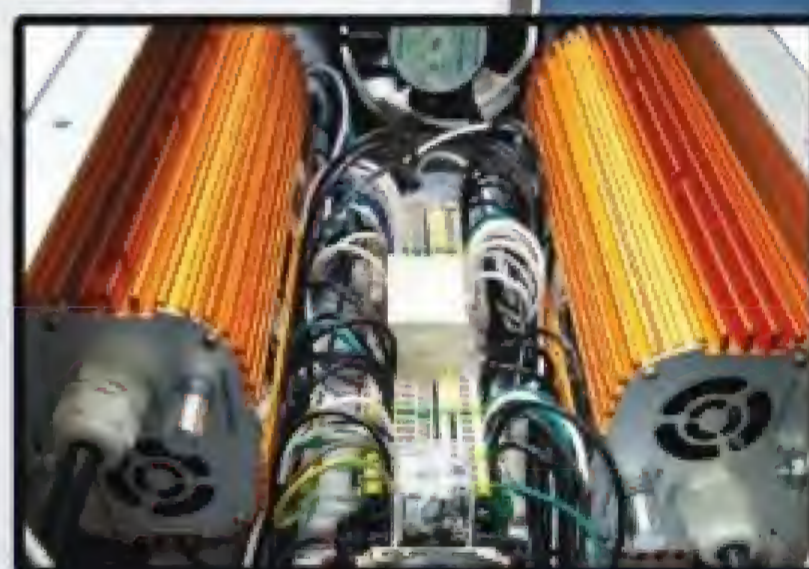
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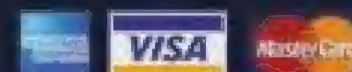
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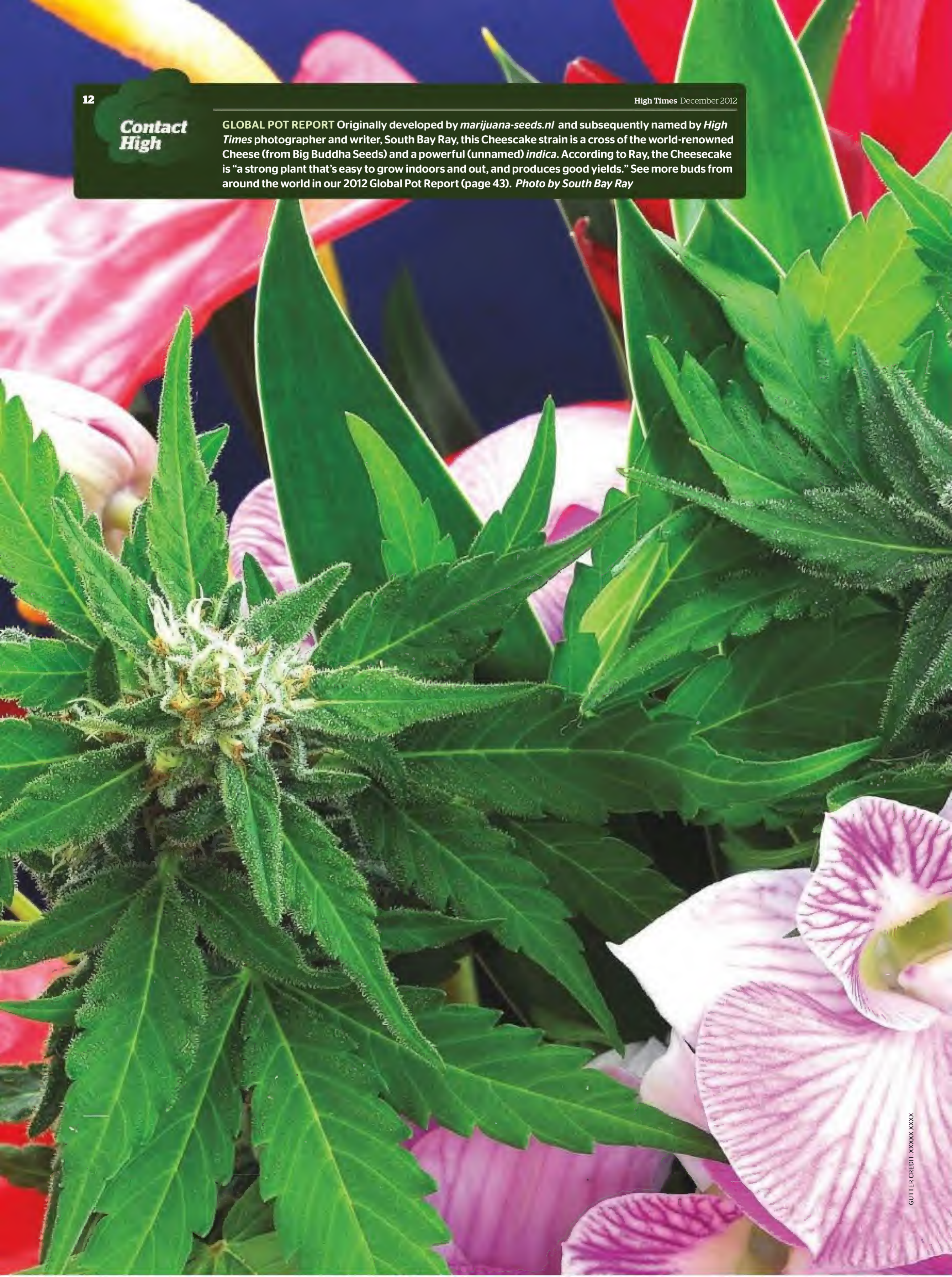


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**Contact
High**

GLOBAL POT REPORT Originally developed by *marijuana-seeds.nl* and subsequently named by *High Times* photographer and writer, South Bay Ray, this Cheesecake strain is a cross of the world-renowned Cheese (from Big Buddha Seeds) and a powerful (unnamed) *indica*. According to Ray, the Cheesecake is “a strong plant that’s easy to grow indoors and out, and produces good yields.” See more buds from around the world in our 2012 Global Pot Report (page 43). *Photo by South Bay Ray*







**Contact
High**

MEDICINE MAN Indoor hydroponic growing is still a wildly popular choice for those who wish to maximize the potential of their marijuana plants and wish to provide patients with the highest quality medicine possible. Hydro growrooms also give alternatives to those who still do not have the freedom to go outside into Mother Nature's sunshine. See how one medical farmer keeps his mind, and his plants, at peace on page 74. *Photo by Freebie*





Contact High

GLOBAL GANJA Talk about an OMG moment, here's a heavy harvest of the world champion Kosher Kush from DNA Genetics. This curtain of buds came down in northern Cali, which is now firmly entrenched as the largest producer of outdoor marijuana on Earth (way to go FEDs!). For more on 2012's big harvests and top strains, check out our Global Pot Report on page 45. *Photo by Freebie*





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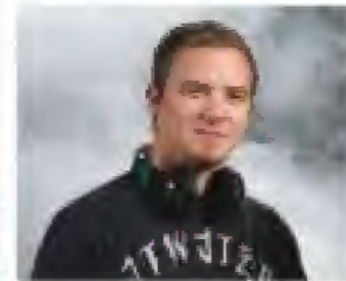
Angelina Jolie has ruined one of Hollywood's great potheads.



Entertainment

Slightly Stoopid

The band releases their new album at last p.27



Food

Split Pea Owl Soup

A favorite childhood book inspires a recipe p.34



A growing number of Americans favor legalization, but not Pres. Obama or candidate Romney.



COLORADO: Amendment 64

Amendment 64 would legalize possession of at least one ounce of marijuana for all adults 21 and older, while allowing them to grow at least six plants at home and developing a statewide regulatory system for commercial growers and distributors—all without affecting the state's current medical marijuana program. With official support from the Colorado Democratic Party and a majority of the Denver County Republican Assembly, plus a list of endorsers diverse enough to include shock jock Howard Stern and conservative preacher Pat Robertson, the effort has already succeeded in making marijuana legalization an unmistakably mainstream issue in the Rocky Mountain State.

Should the measure pass, of course, the new law would stand 100 percent in conflict with existing federal prohibition—but that's no different from Colorado's current medical marijuana program, which includes tight "seed to sales" regulation at the state level and seems to be working just fine.

Visit regulatemarijuana.org.



WASHINGTON: Initiative 502

Washington's Initiative 502 would also legalize marijuana possession for those over 21, in this case with production and distribution subject to licensing and regulation by the state's liquor-control board. If approved by voters, I-502 would impose a 25 percent excise tax on the wholesale and retail sale of marijuana, with the money being used to fund substance-abuse programs, research, education and health care. It would also establish a "per se" DUI limit of five nanograms of THC per one milliliter of whole blood.

The effort has brought together an impressive coalition of legalization advocates, including Seattle Mayor Michael McGinn and City Attorney Pete Holmes; former US Attorney for the Western District of Washington John McKay (the highest-ranking American law

Buds on the Ballot

Support for legalizing marijuana in America has never been higher. And with voters in three states set to decide the issue for themselves this November, the question is no longer if, but rather where and when, it will happen first. *By David Bienenstock*

Forget about Obama. Remove from your mind a president of the United States who, as a much younger man, reportedly advocated a policy of "total absorption" when it came to inhaling Maui Wowie with his Choom Gang friends in Hawaii, but now publicly embraces a position far closer to zero tolerance for the rest of us.

Also, while you're at it, try to ignore the troubling fact that the alternative to this highly unacceptable status quo is an anti-pot zealot named Mitt Romney, who doesn't deny wanting to arrest cancer patients for using cannabis and regularly

narcs out his neighbors for smoking herb on the beach near his mansion in California.

Forget all that. Because when it comes to true marijuana liberation, the elections that really matter this November will take place in the states of Colorado, Washington and Oregon, where voters will decide on various approaches to full legalization for all adults, plus Massachusetts and maybe even Arkansas, where ballot initiatives will seek to push the total number of medical marijuana states ever closer to a national majority.

enforcement official ever to support legalization); PBS travel reporter and national NORML advisory board member Rick Steves; State Representative Lou Dickerson; and Alison Holcomb, drug policy director for the ACLU of Washington.

But not everyone in favor of legalization supports I-502. In fact, some of the most vocal criticism has come from longtime stalwarts of the local pot movement, including criminal defense attorney Jeffrey Steinborn, head of Washington NORML, who likens the proposition to a police sting in plain sight: “This initiative is dependent on people who want to manufacture or distribute [marijuana] signing up with the liquor-control board, knowing that the same law orders the liquor-control board to turn their names over to the DEA, who promise they will prosecute.”

Steinborn adds: “If a significant number of people decide to ignore that threat, then it might work—but I doubt it, because the taxes imposed by I-502 are going to make prices so high that the black market will continue to flourish, and there’s still no individual grows.”

Perhaps the most controversial among I-502’s provisions is the “per se” DUI limit, which critics argue could make unimpaired marijuana users subject to arrest due to a lingering THC blood level

Some of the most vocal criticism has come from longtime stalwarts of the local pot movement.



from a joint they smoked long before getting behind the wheel. Holcomb, however, disputes the notion that a large number of unimpaired drivers would be above the five-nanogram limit, and she defends inclusion of the provision by pointing to polls showing that “drugged driving” is a major concern among swing voters. She says that including a strong safeguard was essential to drafting an initiative that can actually pass.

Visit newapproachwa.org.



OREGON: Measure 80

Of the three statewide initiatives before voters this November, the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act, now known as Measure 80, takes the least restrictive approach to regulating legal marijuana. If passed, the measure would allow the personal possession and cultivation of cannabis for all adults (21 and older) with no limits so long as it’s not sold. Marijuana and derivative products would also be commercially available through state-licensed stores regulated by a newly created Oregon Cannabis Commission. These same stores would be required to sell cannabis “at cost” to qualifying medical marijuana patients, while revenues from the program—estimated at \$140 million annually—would be used to support Oregon’s General Fund (90 percent), drug abuse treatment (7 percent), hemp promotion (1 percent), hemp biodiesel (1 percent) and school drug education (1 percent).

Visit octa2012.org. ✨

HIGH FIVE

Celebrities Against Legalization

Not every performer recognizes the insanity of pot prohibition.



ANGELINA JOLIE

Jolie has stated that she “hates weed.” Whenever she smoked, “I felt silly and giggly, and I hate feeling like that.” Jolie has ruined one of Hollywood’s great potheads: When Brad Pitt was with Jennifer Aniston, he was known as a devout stoner. But after he moved on to Jolie, he reportedly had to sneak off to get high, which Angelina despised. Now Pitt publicly decries his former stoner lifestyle.



DENNIS MILLER

Following the 9/11 attacks, the fading funnyman turned into an unoriginal neocon clone who bashed pot regularly. Miller mocks medicinal use, saying the only disease it treats is “I-need-some-pot syndrome.” On *The O’Reilly Factor*, he once described pot legalization as “a slow saunter to Loserville.” Coincidentally enough, that’s the name of the last comedy club to actually book Miller.



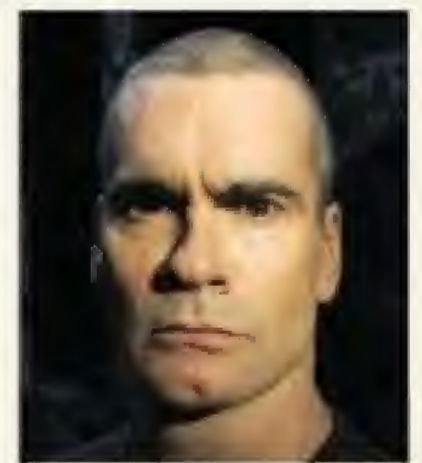
STEPHEN BALDWIN

A barely working mediocre actor, Baldwin yammers incessantly that “pot is a gateway drug.” In an interview with *wearechange.org*, he stated: “There’s no question marijuana is a gateway drug. I know, I abused it for years and it lead to all kinds of other things.” This born-again blockhead believes legal weed will increase the number of pot-related deaths. You mean from zero?



TED NUGENT

Don’t you dare whip out a joint around Uncle Ted. He’s been anti-pot since the 1970s—or in Nugent’s case, maybe even back in the womb! He scoffs at the idea that ending pot prohibition would take the criminal element out of at least one drug and proudly flaunts his 9/11 mindset: that those who “smoke dope” are aiding and abetting the enemies of America.



HENRY ROLLINS

The epitome of hipster rage doesn’t have much use for cannabis: “You would think that pot had some kind of power ... it’s a plant, not a reason for living. Controlled by a plant, how hilarious! A fucking plant!” Rollins loves Peet’s coffee, though, so someone oughtta tell him about caffeine. Then maybe he’ll tear that freakin’ “straight edge” badge off his black T-shirt.

some secrets are worth sharing.



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Glimmer of Hope

Despite the Obama administration's crackdown on medical marijuana, DEA data confirms that marijuana-plant eradication in 2011 declined in 37 states, even as cannabis cultivation *doubled* nationwide during that same period. In 2010, law enforcement seized 10.32 million pot plants, but last year that number dropped to 6.7 million—a 35 percent decline.

In California, which annually tops the US in both the number of plants produced and destroyed, eradication plunged from 7.3 million plants in 2010 to 3.9 million in 2011, a 46 percent decline (even larger than the national figure). Plus it stands to reason that as eradication drops, the amount of harvested and processed pot goes up. That reality is reflected in the increase in cannabis confiscations nationwide—almost doubling from 53,843 pounds in 2009 to 113,167 pounds last year.

Both the Feds and local cops attribute this pot proliferation to a constellation of events, including alterations in the growing tactics of Cali cultivators: for example, smaller grows in the less conspicuous areas found in the state's Central Valley.

Even more encouraging are the harsh budget cuts to state and local law enforcement eradication efforts, suggesting that pot may not be the priority it once was. If America's long economic recession has a "silver lining," maybe this it.



Live From Afghanistan

Fighting the war in Afghanistan has been no walk in the park for US military personnel, but every now and then a break in the action allows for some extraordinary photo ops. After this unknown soldier posed in a field of Kush, he immediately sent the photo to us. It gives the term "high command" a whole new meaning.



A subway tunnel shelters 1,000 plants.

Aroma in Roma

An abandoned subway tunnel in Rome turned out to be an underground pot plantation. When cops performed a routine inspection of the tunnel—now serving as a legal mushroom farm—they detected the scent of pot. Behind a stone wall that pulled out on a hinge, a sizeable grow op was discovered outfitted with lights and a sophisticated irrigation system. A room for trimming and packaging was also found. Police seized about 750 pounds; they believe organized crime had a hand in the garden.

Well, cultivation is a crime and the grow op was organized. Maybe something was lost in translation.



Banned for a Brownie

When US Olympic judo fighter Nick Delpopolo was banned from the 2012 Olympic Games in London after testing positive for THC, it created some controversy over pot's inclusion on the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of prohibited substances. Is marijuana really a performance-enhancing drug? We'd say no more than coffee is, but that's a debate for another time.

But what if an athlete consumes the drug unwittingly? That's what Delpopolo has claimed, insisting that, while visiting New York before the games, he ate a brownie he didn't know was laced with pot. Delpopolo, who finished seventh in his event, has accepted his punishment and waived his appeal. He plans to compete in the 2016 Rio Games.

Maybe Delpopolo will change his training diet. Olympic athletes shouldn't be eating junk food like brownies—laced or otherwise.

BS in the UK

The British tabloid *Daily Mail* must have a policy against reporting positive drug news. In a recent article headlined "Children as young as SEVEN are experimenting with ecstasy and cannabis, shocking study

Blaming Buds



There's an old football adage: "When in doubt, punt." At the University of Michigan, it's "When in doubt, blame pot." A former Michigan Wolverines player has disclosed to *chatsports.com* that starting players got high prior to the Wolverines' historically shocking 34-32 loss to Appalachian State in 2007, the first (and only) time a Top 5 ranked Division I-A team has ever lost to a Division II-A college. The ex-Wolverine said his teammates were so confident they were going to trash App State, more than half the defense and some critical offensive players toked up prior to the game.

But was it pot? Maybe it was Michigan's coaching staff (then led by Lloyd Carr), who regarded App State so lightly that they didn't properly prepare a winning game plan. Either way, blaming a loss on weed looks pretty silly in light of the Wolverines' follow-up game that season, in which they were trounced 39-7 by the allegedly stoner-friendly University of Oregon Ducks.



Brie, Offerman and Mullaly bang the bong.



High-Concept Marketing

A 75-second promo video for the upcoming indie comedy *Somebody Up There Likes Me* recently surfaced on the Web. It features NBC sitcom star Nick Offerman (of *Parks and Recreation*) and his real-life wife, actress Megan Mullaly, as well as Alison Brie of the NBC comedy *Community*—all chugging bong. In between hits, Offerman says: "We were gonna shoot a promo where we were smoking bong, but they [Tribeca Films] didn't know if they could run it past Legal ... some bullshit."

"That's fucked up," Brie responds with a croaking exhalation.

Later, Offerman's eyes bulge from a bong hit as he says, "That's why they call this Rocket Ship!" Brie and Mullaly giggle with lidded eyes.

It's not certain whether the pot is the real deal, but it does appear the trio is ripped. Then again, they are professional actors. But why fake it when you can catch a real buzz?

shows," readers were told: "Nine-year-olds are also trying cocaine and often it is because their parents are failing to control them, experts say."

However, reading further, you discover that the study actually shows drug use *decreasing* among young people. Additionally, the "shocking study" found that pot use has declined more than any

other illegal drug sampled by UK teens and kids. Cocaine use and cigarette smoking are both down, too. In fact, across-the-board drug use has decreased 12 percent among UK youth since the government began collecting these stats in 1996.

The moral here: "Never let the facts get in the way of selling newspapers."

WE WATCH YOU

Without the consent—or even knowledge—of the American people, an ominous nationwide surveillance system designed by TrapWire Inc. has been implemented. State-of-the-art surveillance cameras in large US cities and at landmarks now digitally (and continuously) record anyone passing by. The encrypted data is then fed into a central database maintained at a secret location.

TrapWire utilizes technology superior to present facial-recognition systems. Its alleged purpose is to identify "pre-attack indicators" and assist law enforcement in preventing terrorist or criminal acts before they occur. But progressive activists are concerned that TrapWire's true intent is to conduct widespread spying on the general public, courtesy of a company staffed by "former" US intelligence officers.

HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*

Central Asia: Opium Wars Escalate

Tajikistan sealed its border with Afghanistan in late July, after clashes with armed rebels left 48 people dead—a re-escalation of a long-simmering conflict over control of the cross-border traffic in Afghan opium. Security forces are now searching for Tolib Ayombekov, a former rebel who became a commander of the border guard after a 1997 peace deal and is now believed

Opium battles on the rise



to have taken up arms again. Ayombekov has been a fugitive since he failed to show up for questioning about the murder of a local security official in southern Badakhshan province, or to turn over men under his command suspected in the slaying. Apparently, in a dispute over control of the opium trade, he's returned to being a freebooting warlord.

Meanwhile, in Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley, government forces destroyed an estimated 1,650 kilograms of "narcotics" after local activists with the Human Rights Alliance of Uzbekistan alerted authorities to opium and cannabis plantations.

Lebanon plows under the pot crops of poor farmers.



Lebanon: Dissent Grows Over Cannabis Eradication

There is increasing support in Lebanon's cannabis-producing Bekaa Valley for a proposal by Walid Jumblatt—patriarch of the Druze ethnic group, and one of the country's top power brokers—for the government to legalize and purchase the crop from the area's struggling farmers. Jumblatt is calling for the government to establish a program of controlled distribution for medicinal purposes. Advocates of the proposal say the yearly cannabis eradication by the Central Drug Control Office has led to corruption and is breeding strong resentment. Indeed, attacks are mounting in the Bekaa on police and firms that rent bulldozers to the eradication teams. So far, the government insists that the eradication program will continue, boasting in late July that some 6,000 dunums of cannabis had been destroyed during the past month, out of a total of 30,000 dunums from plantations in the area. Security sources predict it would take a month and a half to destroy all the fields.

Africa: US Expanding Drug War to Yet Another Continent

The *New York Times* reported on July 21 that the United States has begun training an elite group of counternarcotics police in Ghana and is planning similar units in Nigeria and Kenya—part of a new effort to combat Latin American drug cartels that have increasingly been using Africa as a transshipment point in trafficking cocaine to Europe. "We see Africa as the new frontier in terms of counterterrorism and counternarcotics issues," said Jeffrey P.



Africa's new popularity

Breeden, chief of the DEA's Europe, Asia and Africa section.

The DEA is also opening its first country office in Senegal, while the Pentagon is working with Cape Verde to establish a regional center to detect narco-trafficking ships. These are the DEA's first teams assigned to West Africa.

Tijuana: "Narco-Tunnel" Found With Altar to Patron Saint of Traffickers

A "narco-tunnel" discovered on July 12 by Mexican Army troops on the northeast side of Tijuana, just across the border from San Diego, included a makeshift altar honoring Jesús Malverde, Mexico's (non-Vatican-recognized) patron saint of narco-traffickers. A second tunnel was found on another property on the northeast side of the city, where 50 tons of cannabis were also seized. Mexican troops discovered a third narco-tunnel in

Nogales, just across from the Arizona border town of the same name, on July 13. Days earlier, the US Border Patrol found yet another tunnel in San Luis, AZ. The tunnels were all equipped with lighting and ventilation, and one of the tunnels in Tijuana even had a railcar system.



Cocaine trade "efficiency"

Bolivia: Coca Production Down, Cocaine Production Up?

The US government has determined that Bolivia now has fewer coca plantations but is producing more cocaine because traffickers are using a more "efficient" process known as the "Colombian method." Said John Creamer, outgoing chargé d'affaires at the US diplomatic mission in La Paz: "That is the paradox in Bolivia. There are fewer coca plantations in the past three years, but there's more production of cocaine." Creamer said that using the Colombian method, producers "can obtain more cocaine with lesser quantities of coca leaves." He also warned of the "resowing" of eradicated coca fields.

For more updates, visit *Bill Weinberg's websites*, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.

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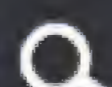
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Miles smokin' at the Fox Theater in Pomona, CA



Way Beyond Slightly Stoned

Miles Doughty of Slightly Stoopid talks about his nearly perfect life. *By Mark Miller*

If he doesn't have a perfect life, Miles Doughty comes pretty damn close. That must be why Doughty is in such a good mood for this interview—no rock-star angst, condescension or pretentiousness from the Slightly Stoopid guitarist, vocalist and co-founder (along with Kyle McDonald, Doughty's friend since childhood). Even in the midst of a nationwide heat wave, Doughty was enjoying the weather, since it was “only 92 degrees” in St. Louis on the July day we spoke to him, not long before the second show of the band's two-month cross-country “2012 Unity Tour” co-headlining with 311.

Doughty, guitarist/singer McDonald and the rest of Stoopid (including standout

jam band saxophonist Karl Denson) are touring in support of a new album, *Top of the World* (Stoopid Records). The LP's 70-plus minutes of musical eclecticism kick off with the title track, emblematic of the band's trademark brand of groove-driven reggae. Doughty explained the challenging lyrics in a nutshell: “When you're on top of the world, everything's great—but when you're not, you can see things change real quick for you.”

Fans have been chomping at the bit (and the blunt, joint and bong) in anticipation of *World's* release, especially on places like the Stoopid website's message forum. It's the band's first LP since 2008, and Doughty delineates the

creative process: “We got to take our time recording in our own studio in San Diego. We've always been such a touring band—we hadn't released an album in years. We were excited to work with great guest stars, and we're happy with the flow of the record from song to song—it's a build-up musically *and* lyrically.”

One of those guest stars was Fishbone's Angelo Moore on “Ska Diddy.” Doughty waxed high in his praise for Moore: “I've loved Fishbone since I was a kid, and now that we've toured with them, we're friends. He is one of the greatest front men to ever go onstage.”

Another welcome guest was old-school Jamaican reggae vocalist and Black Uhuru

member Don Carlos, the perfect vocal choice for the jazz dub of “Marijuana.” Doughty explained how the song was crafted: “Over the last few years, we've done live shows with Don Carlos, and he'd been singing that melody and wanted to make it a reality.”

Pot is obviously a major component of Doughty and the band's creative and personal lives, and he speaks on the subject with eloquent expertise as well as the informed passion of a cannabis activist: “We've always been pro-marijuana, and we partake all the time. Just like Don Carlos was saying, ‘It's the healing of a nation.’”

“It needs to be decriminalized,” Doughty adds. “We're wasting ridiculous amounts of

Smoked
Stoopid

money every year” prosecuting the War on Drugs. He postulates that this systematic incarceration of cannabis consumers is a form of population control by the powers that be, considering that the majority of those imprisoned for weed are young and poor or working-class people, frequently minorities. Doughty also notes how convenient pot prohibition seems to be in enriching the prison-industrial complex in the US.

One final note on the new album: *Top of the World* closer “Introduction to Organics” is an all-mellow kickback. But after it fades out, keep on listening, as an excerpt from the hardcore burner “Road Rage” takes over—the band’s way of telling their fans that they haven’t forgotten their punk roots. “Rage” will be featured on an upcoming EP, and Doughty vows it’ll satisfy the appetites of all those who wanted punk tracks on *World*.

Doughty was also enthused about the band’s new San Diego-area “Stoopid Compound,” which consists of the aforementioned private multi-track recording studio, as well as a rehearsal space and a lounge/entertainment room where anything goes. Doughty is appreciative: “It’s like a blessing from God, the

Doughty hyped his two current favorite strains: “Tokyo OG, which is a different kind of OG Kush—you can never go wrong with the OG Kush. And the other is out of San Diego, called Wet Dream. That’s ‘all-day bud’—you’re happy all day smoking that.”

freedom to record whenever you want. It’s ten minutes from the pad; whenever you feel the vibe, you can go there and lay down tracks.”

Doughty formed Slightly Stoopid with McDonald in 1995 in the Ocean Beach district of San Diego, and he paused to reflect on their unique bond: “It’s pretty insane—Kyle and I have been friends for 33 years. Most people can’t say they’ve been in a relationship or business partnership that long. We call ourselves ‘brothers from other mothers’ because we lived across the street from one another. Being able to make music with Kyle is special because we complement each other, being so different musically—and that’s the attraction of the band.”

Doughty also reminisced about the mid-’90s scene in San Diego that spawned the Stoopid sound: “That time was a party scene; we grew up with punk, ska and skateboarding. Everybody was bumping Sublime, and we listened to Bad Religion, Pennywise and Operation Ivy.”

Sublime, of course, is the seminal punk/ska/reggae band whose late, great singer, Bradley Nowell, paved the way for Slightly Stoopid’s emergence by signing them to his Skunk Records label. Nowell died of a heroin overdose in San Francisco in 1996, and Doughty commented on his mentor’s passing: “The world lost a great lyricist, songwriter and person. The sky was the limit if he had lived.”

Slightly Stoopid had previously covered “I Know You Rider,” a traditional country-blues sing-along most closely associated with the Grateful Dead, and Doughty described how their cover of a cover came full circle: “We played with Bob Weir [at Weir’s new studio at Mount Tamalpais] and did ‘I Know You Rider.’ Doing ‘Rider’ harmonies with him was surreal,

and I’m thinking: ‘Holy shit—I’m singing with Bob Weir!’ That’s what’s so awesome about being a musician: sharing the stage [with artists like him]. I never thought in my wildest dreams it’d be like this ... it’s pretty ridiculous!”

Slightly Stoopid plays a lot of festivals. Doughty said the best thing is checking out all the bands they’ve never been able to tour with and sampling the local cuisine. The worst thing about festies? “Not being able to sound-check ... and when the shitter doesn’t work.” Doughty quipped that playing live while stoned is “almost a job requirement, with all the fans throwing their stashes onstage.” The band’s only negative pot experience came when Stoopid was leaving Canada once; Doughty said the border guards found a roach and tore the entire tour bus apart, seizing an ounce that ultimately cost them a \$2,000 fine.

Speaking of pot, Doughty hyped his two current favorite strains: “Tokyo OG, which is a different kind of OG Kush—you can never go wrong with the OG Kush. And the other is out of San Diego, called Wet Dream. That’s ‘all-day bud’—you’re happy all day smoking that. Some pot is ‘knockout bud,’ but what’s cool about Wet Dream is you can surf, make music, work in the yard and just do stuff all day on it.”

Doughty’s unself-conscious sincerity is surely one of the keys to the band’s loyal following. “With Stoopid, what you see is what you get. We’ll always smoke weed,” he vowed. “Until the government and establishment can prove pot’s a negative thing, we know it helps the people who are sick and those who just want to chill.” ✨



Musical Joints

Aside from the new track “Marijuana,” the other pot songs that round out Slightly Stoopid’s top five chronic cuts are the reggae-tinged duos “Sensimilla” and “I’m So Stoned,” the funky, acoustic “This Joint,” and the Arabic-flavored psychedelia of “Above the Clouds.”

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Sister Sparrow & the Dirty Birds

Sister Sparrow & the Dirty Birds are a nine-piece powerhouse putting a modern spin on classic soul. The band is led by Arleigh Kincheloe, whose astonishingly powerful voice and sly demeanor make for a spellbinding presence onstage. She is backed by the mighty force of the Dirty Birds, a flock of eight men who lay down the thundering grooves and soaring melodies.

While Sister Sparrow serves as the principal songwriter and unifying voice of the band, the Dirty Birds work collaboratively on the arrange-



ments. Each member is focused on delivering the band's music as a single compelling entity.

Currently lighting up stages across the country with their infectious songs and jaw-dropping musicianship, Sister Sparrow & the Dirty Birds proffer a masterful blend of seductive soul and dirty blues-rock that reminds audiences why they love live music in the first place.

For more info on Sister Sparrow & the Dirty Birds, including audio samples and tour dates, check out hightimes.com/sistersparrow.



Requiem for an Assassin

As fans anxiously awaited the latest release from Kottonmouth Kings, *Mile High*, tragic news broke of the death of founding member Pakelika, a.k.a. Patrick Cochrun, a.k.a. the "Visual Assassin."

Pakelika was a sight to behold, onstage and off. He was known for his incredible height (a towering 6'7"), his heavyweight pot-smoking, his signature white mask, and his groundbreaking dance moves—often performed while inhaling copious amounts of weed during the band's live shows.

The visuals were marvelous; his poppin' and hip-hop-pin' robotic moves were pure theater—performance artistry at its finest. When I asked the masked man about how he choreographed his robotic grooves, Pakelika smiled and stated, "It's me; it's how my soul chooses to express itself."

His dance style is referred to as "Hydro-Mechanix," a phrase he is credited with coining.

A dedicated marijuana freedom fighter, Pakelika would often hold signs onstage to express his political leanings, such as "Legalize, not Legal Lies." He was an avid promoter of medicinal marijuana and all its health benefits. A true connoisseur, he was known for smoking the finest marijuana with the highest THC content around. One would marvel at his encyclopedic knowledge of the potency and genetics of various strains. Pakelika took great pleasure in his blunts, joints and vapor hits all being massive. "Go big or go

home!" he would say. Proud of his ability to be what he called a "functioning stoner," Pakelika often stated how he could perform all of his daily duties with no problem, and with less stress.

One thing I always notice about people is their distinct style of preparing and rolling a blunt, and

Pakelika had his own individual method. It was his mannerisms while he emptied out the leaf of his blunt, along with the determined facial expressions he wore, that I enjoyed watching. A smile would form on his lips as he ground up 6-7 grams of kind and placed it in the blunt wrap, always leaving a tad bit more towards the end he would fire up, in keeping

with European style. After rolling it in his fingers to ensure that it was sealed, he would let the blunt sit for 30 seconds. Then his eyes would beam up like saucers as he lit up the beautiful baby for us all to enjoy.

Anyone and everyone reading this: On that next smoke that you fire up, pack it tight and when you give it a light, do so in honor of one of music's finest—Pakelika. Peace out! *Maggie St. Thomas*

Pakelika took great pleasure in his blunts, joints and vapor hits all being massive. "Go big or go home!" he would say.

Watch Pak in action at:
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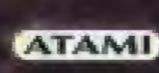
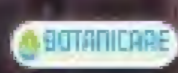
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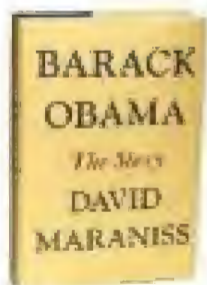
Barry and his buds

Choomer In Chief

Exposing Obama's smoke-filled school daze.

The mainstream media was all abuzz (pardon the pun) this summer about the latest Obama biography, which portrays the president as quite the teenage pothead. Penned by acclaimed author David Maraniss, the book chronicles, among many other things, Obama's marijuana misadventures at his Honolulu high school with a group of basketball buddies calling themselves the Choom Gang (*chooming* being slang for "smoking weed")—including a hippie pot dealer whom Obama actually thanked in his yearbook.

While many of the highlights have already been sound-bitten to death on the news networks—namely the future president's "total absorption" inhalation technique and his habits of "intercepting" joints and doing "roof hits" while riding in the car—there were some pot references that didn't exactly make it to prime time. Such as the time in 1978 when one of the Choom Gangers was busted



BARACK OBAMA: THE STORY

By David Maraniss
(Simon & Schuster)

for possession and Barry's mom angrily confronted him about it. Or the "magical night" when they all snuck away from their graduation party to drink Southern Comfort and smoke *pakalolo* ("sweet, sticky Hawaiian buds"). Or even the fact that, in college, the president was known for routinely hitting a "three-foot opaque crimson bong" in his dorm and acquired his sense of social justice from listening to Bob Marley.

Overall, Obama's story sets a positive example by showing a young man who enjoyed "chooming" heavily, yet still got good grades, excelled in sports, and was well liked and respected by his teachers and peers. Which, of course, makes his current betrayal that much harder to swallow: How such a stoner could so totally and hypocritically laugh at the mere mention of decriminalization, refuse to acknowledge cannabis's medical value, and continue to authorize federal raids even on state-compliant dispensaries defies understanding. Shame on you, Barry. *Bobby Black*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Memphis May Fire
Challenger
(Rise Records)

➤ If you're in the mood for some slick, heavily programmed Dallas metalcore, look no further. Instead of the sexed-up swagger of Asking Alexandria or the conflicted passion of Underoath, MMF surge forth on a tide of melodrama. In fact, these guys are the Douglas Sirk of metalcore! (Sample lyric:

"What was I thinking when I gave you my life? ... You knew this would die!") They also share the legendary filmmaker's attention to detail, with fluid, shiny-hard guitars, jagged synth breaks, and vocals that drop easily out of a roar to a croon so dreamy, it ought to be in movies. *Polly Watson*



Future Twin
Future Twin
Deluxe Edition
(Future Twin Inc.)

➤ Any band headlining a show at a San Francisco cannabis dispensary deserves a nod, and Future Twin justify the gesture. Singer/guitarist Jean Jeanie is a hippie/post-punk force to be reckoned with, breaking out the pot-leaf tights for gigs along with her earthy vocals. Antonio Roman-Alcala's

outstanding drum work shines in the driving psych of the best track, "Landslide," whereas he and the rest of Future Twin offer an upbeat contrast on "Bad Seed" (fine for a song title, perhaps, but not what you'd expect to find among any of the better dispensaries' best-selling products). *Mark Miller*



The Orb
(featuring Lee "Scratch" Perry)
The Orbserver in the Star House
(The End/Cooking Vinyl)

➤ There's some real simpatico at work between the mix-meistering Orb and dub conqueror Lee "Scratch" Perry. An easygoing vibe pervades the kaleidoscopic beauty of these tracks, deepened by the fly-in-the-ointment antics of Scratch. He's a cosmic joker, an elflike anarchist proclaiming "I am

the god of fire!" or enacting the title character in "Man in the Moon." The Orb's dub/electronic textures are both massive and Chic-funk airy on cuts like "Hold Me Upsetter" and the classic "Little Fluffy Clouds," reworked here as "Golden Clouds." This is the sound of *possibility*. *John Payne*



Renaissance
Live in Concert
(Symphonic Rock Recordings)

➤ Like chasing elves into the tall grass, Renaissance offer a mystical brand of English folk-prog that suggests the Moody Blues crossed with Fairport Convention. At their mid-'70s height, they were Britain's finest art-rock act, their reputation anchored by the twin masterpieces *Turn of*

the Cards and *Scheherazade and Other Stories*. Led by the operatic vocals of Annie Haslam, the band reprised both of those albums in their entirety on this DVD/double-CD set. It's beautifully elegant music, expansive and airy, that drifts gently like *sativa* smoke across the spotlights. *Chris Parker*



Flying Lotus
Until the Quiet Comes
(Warp)

➤ Music snobs the world over were delighted after Flying Lotus released *Cosmogramma* in 2010. Finally, the EDM genre had produced a bona fide jazz auteur. But *Until the Quiet Comes* changes FlyLo's game in far subtler ways: Unlike its predecessor, the focus is on inner rather than outer

space this time around, the obvious touchstone being Miles Davis's *In a Silent Way*, but more psychedelic. At times, the off-kilter rhythms and unpredictable tonal shifts sound like parodies of jazz and R&B conventions, but FlyLo ultimately wish you some pleasant dreams. *Justin Hampton*

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MUNCHIES

Go Away, Winter!

Spend some snowy nights at home with this super-greened split-pea Owl Soup.

Oh, how I loved for Mom to read to me when I was a child. One of our very favorite books was *Owl at Home*, a collection of short stories about the protagonist (Owl) and all the adventures he got into.

I reread it the other night, stoned out of my mind, and was delighted by Owl all over again. His simple solutions to complex problems, born of

a wisdom only those ancient birds can bear, nearly had me in OG Kush-impregnated memory tears.

Among the collected vignettes is a situation that arises between Owl and Winter. After knocking at Owl's door several times without identifying himself, Winter is nevertheless kindly invited into the house. But instead of sitting politely next to the fire with a warm bowl of Owl's homemade pea soup, Winter makes a nuisance of himself—blowing out the fire, freezing the soup, running rampant through the manor halls—until finally he's ushered out. The fire is restarted, the soup rewarmed, and Owl gets back to his Zen.

So this is that recipe, but enhanced by my favorite added ingredient (with permission from Mom).

Psst ... Winter wasn't entirely wrong—this soup holds up wonderfully well when frozen and reheated.

Mary Ought Six

SPLIT-PEA OWL SOUP

2¼ cups dried split peas
2 quarts cold water
1 ham bone, nicely sized (1-2 lbs)
2 medium white onions, diced small
2 tbsp. butter
½ oz. cannabis, finely ground
3 stalks celery, chopped
2-3 carrots, diced
1 large Yukon or yellow potato, diced
¼ tsp. dried marjoram
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine the peas and cold water (doing this in your stock pot is easiest) and soak overnight. (If you really need some super-greened Owl Soup in a hurry, bring the peas to a simmer over low heat, simmer for two minutes and then soak them for an hour.)

Next, add the ham bone, onions, pepper, a pinch of salt and marjoram. Cover and bring it to boil, then simmer for one and a half hours while stirring occasionally. While the soup base is simmering, melt the

butter over low heat in a double boiler, then add the ground cannabis. Stir it occasionally for 30 minutes without browning the marijuana and then set aside.

Take the ham bone out of stock pot. Remove the meat from the bone, cut it into little bits and return it to the soup. Add the cannabutter, celery, carrots and potatoes. Cook slowly uncovered (and never going above a simmer) for 30 to 40 minutes, until the veggies are tender. Taste, then add salt and more pepper if needed, though the ham bone may have added all the salty tastiness desired. Last—but not least!—serve.

Because the cannabis is so finely ground and we didn't strain it out this time, expect some seriously comforting winter soup—especially since all the wonderful fats from the ham will continue to draw out the pot's greatest properties. *Stones 6*

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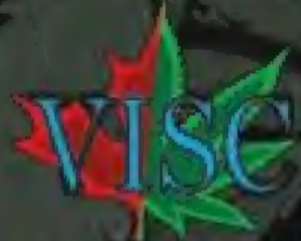


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FUCKING INCREDIBLE! High Times Top 10 Strains 2008

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Fucking Incredible	\$140
Gold	\$75
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The Legend of the Burmese! See High Times January 2009

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High in a terpene called alpha-pinene, this Blue Dream bud acts as a powerful bronchodilator.

Medical Strain of the Month

Blue Dream

A hybrid of Blueberry and Haze, Blue Dream has become a *sativa*-dominant staple of the West Coast medical cannabis scene, finding an honored place upon the top shelf at many dispensaries, not to mention in the hearts of patients looking for high-energy pain relief. With a fruity, spicy taste and an aroma resplendent of fresh pine needles, this highly sought-after flower also appeals to true connoisseurs. And it makes for amazing concentrates, too.

Identified as one of the Top 10 Strains of 2010 by our own Danny Danko, the clone-only varietal's "long-lasting high starts in the head and ends in the body," according to our senior cultivation editor, "without the sedative effects typical of *indicas*, leaving you fully functional yet pleasantly stoned for a truly expansive and cerebral experience."

As for that fresh-pine smell, lab tests have shown that it comes from the strain's abundance of a terpene known as alpha-pinene, a naturally occurring essential oil that's

also found in pine needles. In the August 2011 *British Journal of Pharmacology*, a paper by Ethan Russo, MD demonstrated that terpenes found in cannabis can increase or modulate the medicinal benefits of THC and CBD. Russo has dubbed this the "entourage effect," and his findings have made terpenes all the rage among serious cannabis scientists and breeders. *High Times* has since begun lab-testing for terpenes as part of our Medical Cannabis Cups.

So when you open your next (or first) jar of Blue Dream and that piney smell hits you, keep in mind that alpha-pinene is not only pleasant to the nose: It's also a proven—and powerful—bronchodilator with antibacterial and antibiotic properties. In his research paper, Dr. Russo even noted how alpha-pinene helps protect the neurotransmitters involved in memory, writing: "This feature could counteract short-term memory deficits induced by THC intoxication."

So don't forget to try Blue Dream the next time you need to remember. ✨

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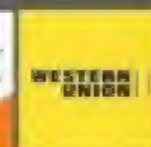
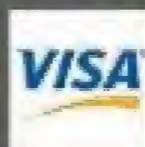
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Advances in LEDs have made new units more desirable. The **LED Comet** from HID Hut combines four spectrums into one chip, making it easier to place the lights closer to plants without the color spotting common from other LEDs. The 150-watt model uses only 36 watts of electricity, while the 400-watt uses 90. Both units are compact (4 inches in diameter and 5 inches long). Comes with a three-year warranty.

3 Clone Alone

\$1,995 plus shipping
supercloset.com

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4 Computerize It

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The **Growtronix** automation system is capable of regulating and running many different aspects of a grow op, everything from pH and air-flow to pumps, fans, humidity levels and much more. And the best part is, you can dial it all in remotely from your laptop and smartphone. The system can even warn you when something's not right, such as flooding or an unauthorized entry.

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HEIT YORE 47	18,70 €	41,80 €	71,65 €
TYMBOUL 47	18,70 €	41,60 €	71,65 €
NEW YORK SPECIAL	28,50 €	63 €	106 €
AFGHAN KUSH SPECIAL	18,50 €	43 €	108 €

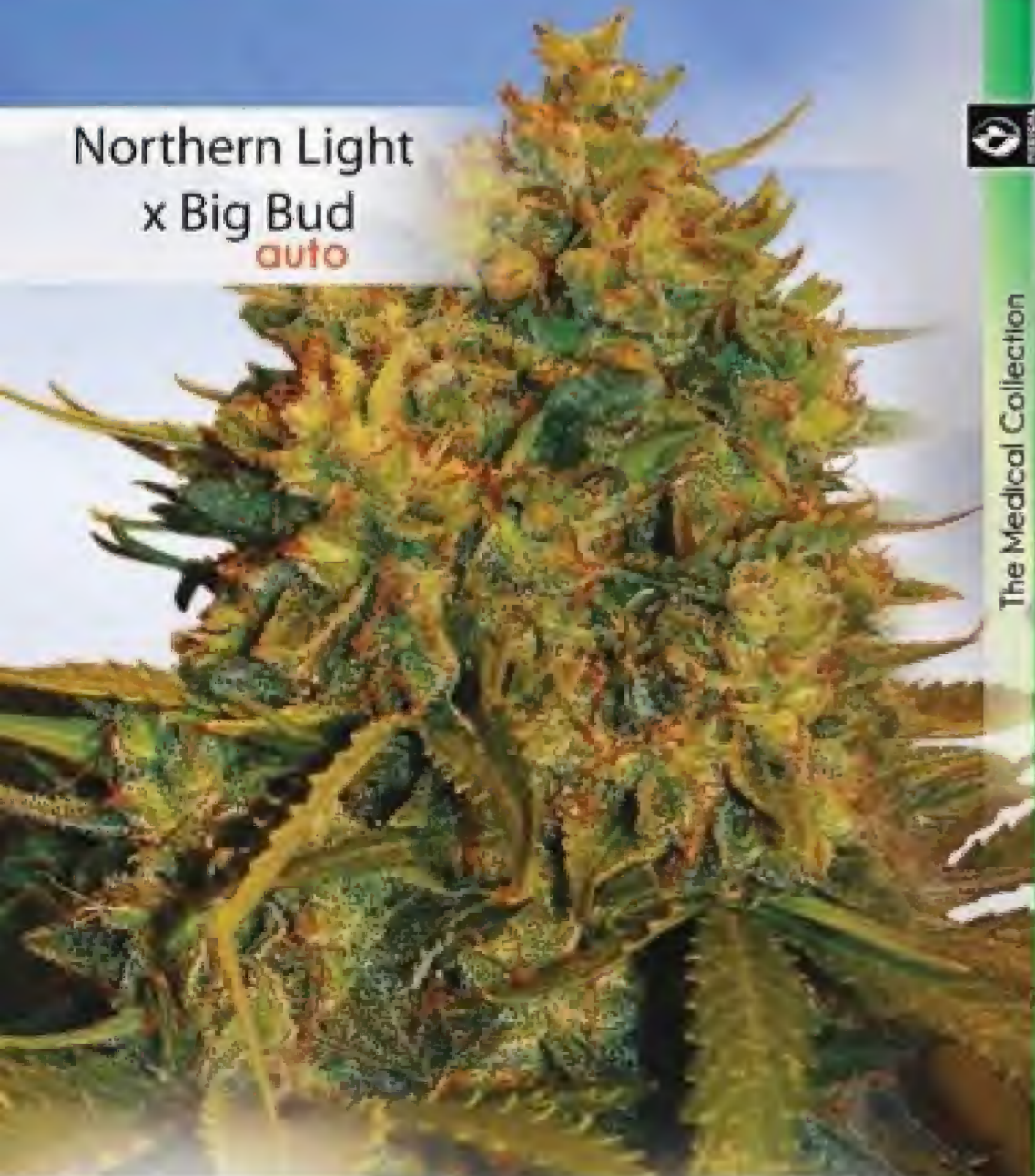
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Northern Light x Big Bud auto



The Medical Collection

Mazar x White rhino

THC: 20% CBD: 0,3% CBN: 0,25%
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Northern light x Big Bud

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Mazar x great white shark

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Afghan kush x black domina

Afghan kush x skunk

Afghan kush x white widow

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TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

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Arizona	Lake Havasu Phoenix	Platinum Bubba Kush Tahoe OG	250 450
Arkansas	El Dorado	Querkle Cataract Kush	450 450
California	Anaheim Los Angeles San Diego San Francisco	Cherry AK-47 Dead Head OG Headband Girl Scout Cookies Tahoe OG	250 280 330 300 300
Colorado	Boulder Denver	Golden Goat Jack Herer Kosher Kush	325 300 350
Florida	Jacksonville Sarasota	Jack Herer Granddaddy Purps G-13 Trainwreck Banana Kush	200 350 400 450 375
Georgia	Griffin	Sour Diesel	350
Hawaii	Kona Hilo Oahu	Purple Trainwreck Super Skunk Alaskan Thunderfuck Chem Dog	350 400 350 350
Illinois	Chicago	Super Silver Haze Blue Dream	400 420
Kentucky	Louisville	Sweet God Bud	500
Michigan	Grand Rapids	Platinum OG	270
Minnesota	Burnsville	Pineapple Kush	300
Montana	Butte	Sour Diesel Purple Kush	350 325
New Hampshire	Manchester	Agent Orange	375
New Jersey	Hoboken	OG Kush	420
New York	New York Brooklyn	Skywalker Chem Dog Sour Diesel	440 425 400
North Carolina	Raleigh	Purple Kush	400
Oregon	Gresham	Super Silver Haze Jack Herer	250 225
Ohio	Dayton	Lemon OG	300
Tennessee	Nashville	White Widow OG Kush	550 330
Washington	Kennewick Seattle	Afghooy Super Silver Haze Cheese	320 280 300
West Virginia	Bluefield	Mazar	400
INTERNATIONAL			
Canada	Toronto	Candy Kush Tangerine Dream	C\$240 250
England	London	Cheese	£280

MARKET ANALYSIS

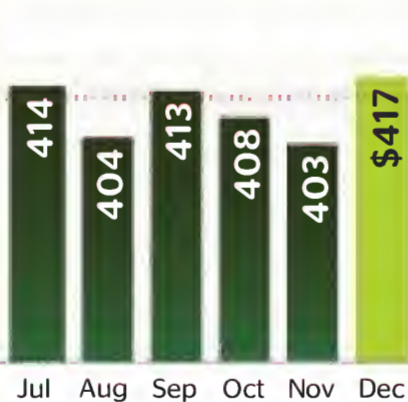
Prices by the ounce

The Mids Index essentially held steady in December after last month's leap in average price; at \$288 an ounce, the index finished the year \$9 above its year-to-date average. Meanwhile, the Kind Index jumped \$14 in average price, ending the year \$5 above its year-to-date.

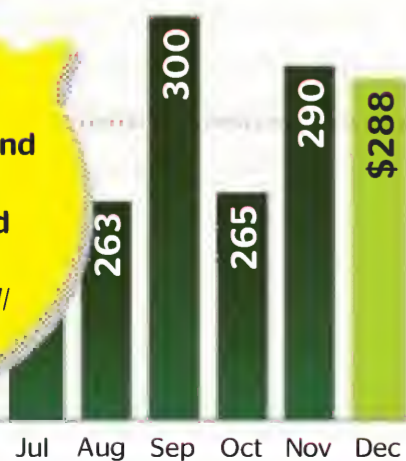
US Price Index
 YTD Average: \$333



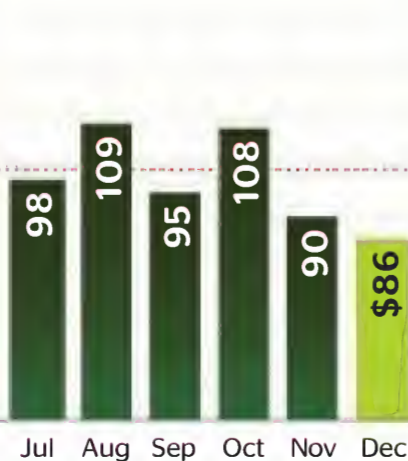
Kind Index
 YTD Average: \$412



Mids Index
 YTD Average: \$279



Schwag Index
 YTD Average: \$100



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El Dorado, AR

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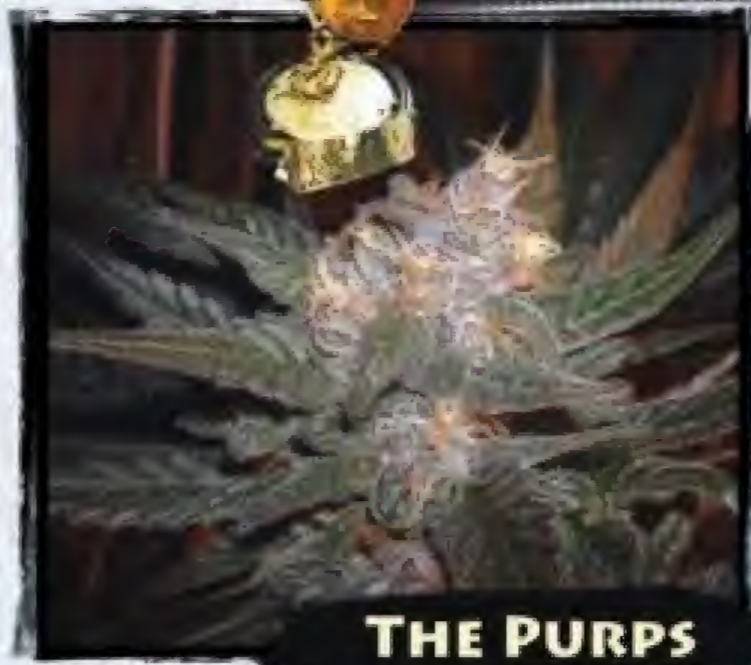
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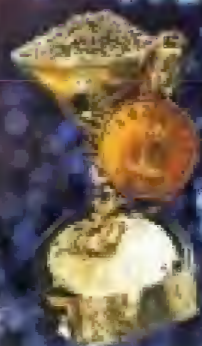
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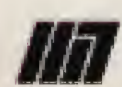


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The 2012 Global Pot Report

Compiled by the *High Times* Cultivation Department



It's that time of year, when outdoor harvests and top shelf indoors begin to compete for a place in your pipe!

As we approach the end of each year, we check in with our cannabis cultivation correspondents around the globe to gauge the pot scene in various cities and countries. The responses are always illuminating, including new grow tips, previews of the “next big strains,” marketplace trends, law enforcement hassles, and personal anecdotes shared by growers and smokers of this miraculous plant. So here is the pot year in review, with a few glimpses of what’s to come in the near future for our favorite Lady of the Land.

New York City

Let's start with the pot capital of the East Coast: NYC. As always, the city is a vital hub for pot distribution, which results in almost every variety from both North and South America making its way right down Broadway.

This year, Manhattan saw a serious boom in the volume of outdoor bud from our good friends in California. Usually, the November harvest from NorCal makes its way over here just after the holidays, arriving in early January. In the past, that trend would continue until about mid-April, when the outdoor supply runs dry and indoor buds take over the market. However, this year the outdoor supply didn't run out until the end of June. Additionally, while the quality of the outdoor that shipped east from Cali was never the cream of the crop, 2012 did see quite an increase in terms of quality, making it even harder for the local indoor product to compete price-wise.

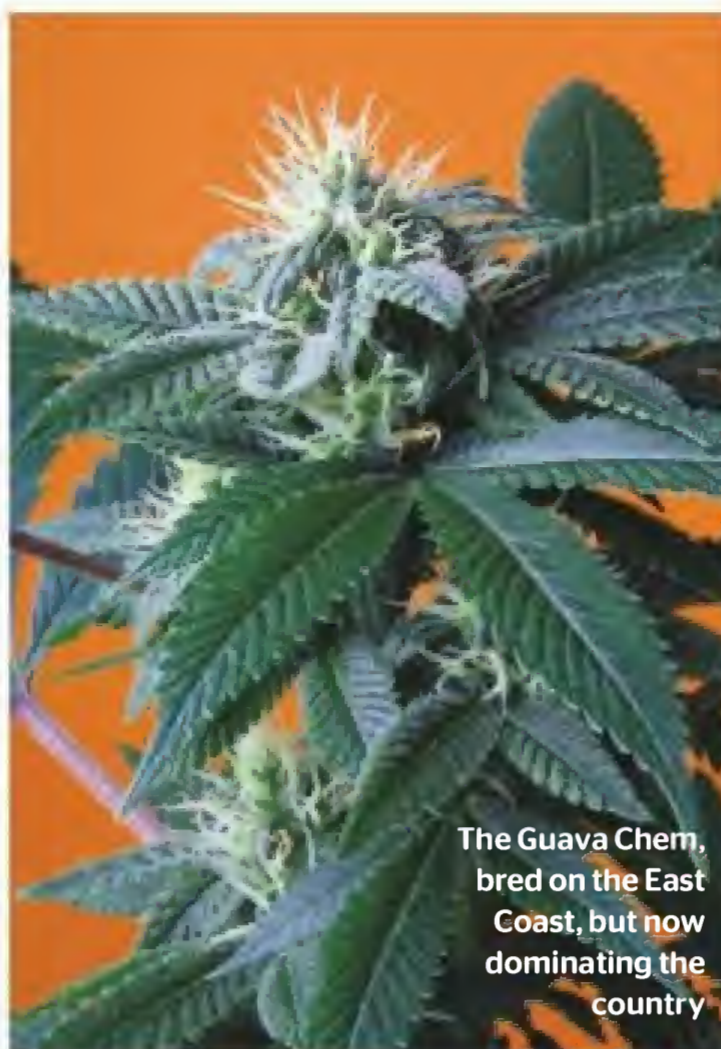
This is not to say that our local growers here in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut aren't still doing their thing, because the quality of local buds has increased to the point where it's safe to say that NYC indoor is on a par with California indoor (though the quantities produced are significantly smaller). This is largely attributed to the dissemination of powerful, high-end genetics. While much of the Chem Dog family lineage was spawned near here, prized cuts such as the AJ Sour Diesel, Guava Chem, Chem '91 and Chem's Sister have been tightly held until recent years.

These strains are now coming into the city hot and heavy, commanding ridiculous prices as "boutique bud." Pounds of these can fetch between \$6,800 to \$7,600, with competitive bidding sometimes taking that price tag even higher. These numbers may have to do with the fact that New York isn't a medical state (though we have been decrimmed since the late '70s), and thus many indoor growers only pull down five to 10 pounds per cycle.

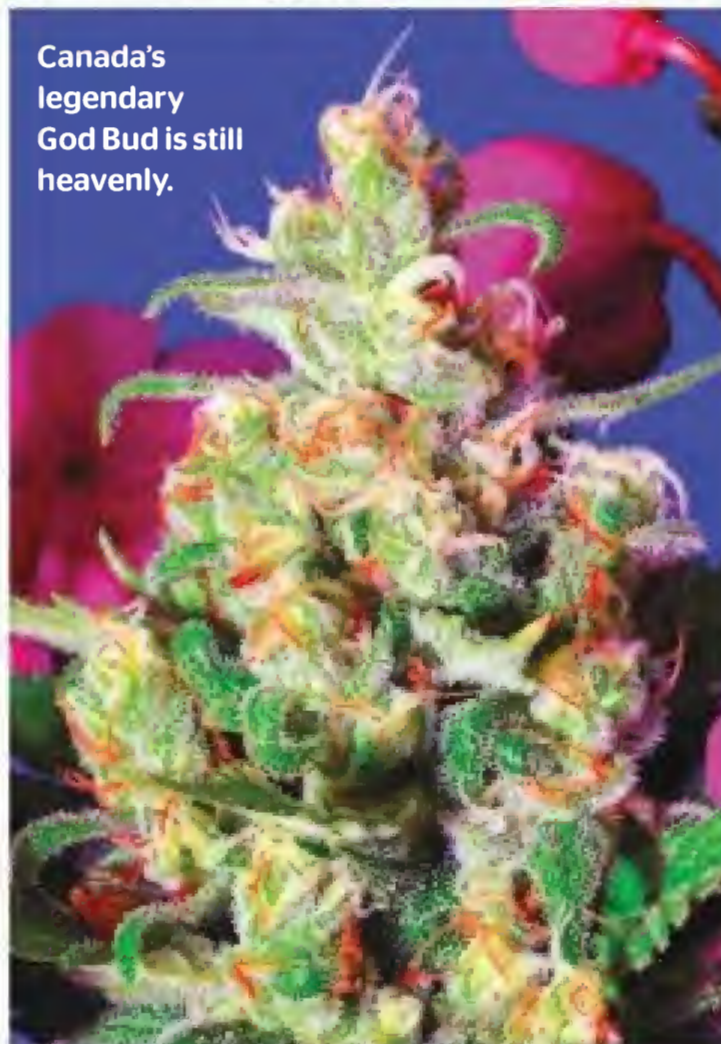
Another major factor in the quality of local indoor is that horticultural techniques as well as technology have progressed. The days of crazy hydro setups are fading, and more and more NYC growers are going to simple soilless setups with easy automation of drip feeds.

In terms of our East Coast farmers, anything outdoor must remain far north and east of Manhattan—and, I won't lie, the quality of our outdoor stuff just does *not* compare to Cali's outdoor buds!

Nico Escondido



The Guava Chem, bred on the East Coast, but now dominating the country



Canada's legendary God Bud is still heavenly.



Cheesecake, a heavy (and tasty) indica

Hawaii

"Lucky we live Hawaii" is a common saying around here. Indeed, cannabis growers here have a lot to be thankful for. For starters, there's never a shortage of weed, because it's grown all year long indoors and out. Also, a medical marijuana license is easy to get—and licenses have doubled in the past two years. Growers with licenses can grow seven plants on their property and have up to three ounces of dried marijuana in their possession.

Hawaii has always produced some of the best weed in the world and still does. The state became a major producer of cannabis back in the 1960s, when surfers traveling the world brought back seeds and samples from every corner of the globe. The original Maui Wowie was a cross between some fine *sativa* buds that surfers brought by sailboat from Mexico crossed with a powerful strain that someone had smuggled in from Asia. In fact, it's not uncommon to run across people here who have been growing pot for more than 40 years.

In 2012, the most popular strains being grown included varieties of Diesel, Blueberry, OG Kush, White Widow, Northern Lights and AK-47, along with *sativa* and *indica* hybrids. Indoor growing has been on the rise, and all of the islands have hydroponic stores. As a good rule of thumb, the larger the island, the more pot being grown, so the Big Island of Hawaii produces the most, followed by Maui and Kauai. The island of Oahu, where the city of Honolulu is located, does grow pot, but not that much because it's so densely populated, so that most of the weed sold on Oahu comes from these other islands. The price of pot varies as well: An ounce sells for an average of \$400 on Oahu, \$300 on Maui and Kauai, and \$250 on the Big Island.

The Big Island passed a ballot initiative a few years back making the cultivation of 24 or fewer marijuana plants on private property a so-called lowest law-enforcement priority (LLEP). As a result, it appears that local law enforcement is allowing people to have 24 plants or less as long as they're not breaking any other laws. However, there are compliance checks, in which the police visit medical marijuana patients to ensure that no laws are being violated.

All in all, Hawaii is a great place to grow weed except for one thing: the Feds. We sure wish they would leave the state of Hawaii (and all of the others) alone, and instead let the people determine how best to manage the use of marijuana in their state. *South Bay Ray*

Michigan

It's been touch-and-go in Michigan this year, with the heat (both weather-wise and legally speaking) managing to slow down Michigan's green machine—but a positive outcome is looking more likely every day. The courts have been ruling in our favor, and citizens of the state seem to be very interested not only in the medical value of cannabis, but in its recreational aspects as well—or at least in not having to go to jail for using it or possessing personal amounts.

The climate has been severely hot and dry, beginning in the spring and continuing through the summer, and growers have been spending extra on air conditioning (and likely a bit on some mite and pest sprays, too). Anyone unlucky enough to plant an outdoor crop this year spent many hours watering or else ran into wilting and burning issues. That being said, those growers using an automated irrigation system and the right feeding regimen have produced some real monsters, as this has been one of the hottest, sunniest summers in recent memory, and that equals great plant growth.

On the political front, the cities of Flint and Detroit both have measures on this fall's ballot that will affect the legality of cannabis. Flint aims to decriminalize, while Detroit is going all out to legalize the possession of small amounts. If there is anything that could possibly turn cities like Flint and Detroit around, economically speaking, it's the cannabis industry.

Unfortunately, not much has changed on the caregiver-to-patient scene. Caregivers may have 12 plants in their possession per patient, up to a maximum of 72 plants. Still, patient-to-patient transfers of plants are under the scrutiny of the State Supreme Court and remain in legal limbo. Also, many of the state's dispensaries remain closed, and those that stayed open have been keeping it discreet. So until the legality of patient-to-patient transfers is decided by the courts, things are likely to stay a bit quiet.

The good news is that the Michigan Supreme Court *has* ruled in favor of the right to use medical marijuana as a defense in court even without a registry card. The high court has also okayed the use of secure, locked facilities located outside the home for growing, clearing the way for Michiganders to legally try their hand at outdoor grows in 2013! *B.D. Buds*



An indoor growroom of Sour Diesel in Michigan



Spain's Critical +



An outdoor wonderland in Spain

Spain

There's a new marijuana mecca looming on the horizon, a place that receives loads more sunshine compared to Holland. In 2004, I went to the first Spanabis trade show and was amazed at the freedom granted to smoke inside the fair, which was being held in the middle of Barcelona. Back then, the Spanish came with outdoor buds still on the branch, brown in color and all tasting the same no matter what the strain.

In the past eight years, things have changed quite a bit, and with better genetics, the outdoor weed here has

There's a new marijuana mecca looming on the horizon, a place that receives loads more sunshine compared to Holland: Spain!

become amazing. Even the indoor cannabis is medically acceptable, with new technologies such as climate controllers and automated irrigation systems opening whole new worlds of

possibility. Perhaps the biggest change since 2004 in terms of cultivation is the reverse-osmosis (RO) water-filtration system, which gives cannabis the natural flavor it deserves. (Tap water in Spain is highly chlorinated and affects the outcome of crops.)

Still, sunshine remains the best way to grow your plants here in Spain, allowing you to achieve maximum trichome capacity and juicy, sticky, resinous flowers. If you're a resident of the country, you can also now join a private cannabis club called an *asociación*. These clubs—which are located all across Spain—keep such low profiles that they're barely recognizable from the street. I recently visited one and was very pleased with the cannabis menu:

Indicas: MK-Ultra, Underdawg, Great Widow, Critical, AK-47

Sativas: Head Shot, Sage n' Sour, Moonlight, Snow Haze

Water Hash: Wreckage, Akorn, Gold 73, Skunk +

Import Hash: Creama, Hardala 1, Jamaicano, Amnesia Hash, Critical Hash

The quality was also very impressive and, best of all, the price of premier marijuana strains such as MK-Ultra was only eight euros per gram, while bubble hash was a reasonable €25—not bad at all when compared to Amsterdam's €50-per-gram water hash and €15-per-gram herb. So look out, Holland: Spain is on the rise! *The Medicine Man*



Big Blue from BC Seed Co.

British Columbia

This year in western Canada, we've been seeing a return of some classics and even a little pinch of spice on the scene—which, to no one's surprise, is Kush-dominated.

Chemo, a BC legend, is coming down and being planted in increasing numbers. Patients and stoners looking for potent alternatives to Kush strains appreciate this powerful *indica*, rumored to have been developed for potency at the University of British Columbia as an effective treatment for side effects that result from chemotherapy treatments.

On Vancouver Island and the surrounding isles, Jack Herer was a big indoor strain in 2012, reaping high-yielding bushes of spicy, hard *sativa* buds. Often grown hydroponically in large, modified bucket systems (a.k.a., deep-water culture), the Jack is known to yield more than a pound per plant indoors, even without a whole lot of time for vegetative growth.

Sour Amnesia, another great *sativa*-dominant strain imported from Europe, is also helping to provide some contrast to the Kush trend, showing strong

ECSD heritage. Of course, Purple Kush is still a favorite, but it's always been a strain that's slow to grow, leading to a rise in popularity of a faster-finishing version known as EPK (Early Purple Kush). Rumor has it that with the right phenotype and cultivation techniques, well-managed gardens of EPK are achieving hard, resinous buds at full maturity after just *six weeks* of budding. This is a huge advantage over the usual eight-plus weeks required to grow proper PK.

Other popular Kush varieties being grown out in western Canada include Tuna, Bubba, Rock Star and the OG. The powerhouses include Granddaddy Purple and another high-potency purple pheno going around by the tag of Oregon Grape. Outdoors, Grizzly is a new favorite for its proven yield, while some decades-old classics like Time Warp and Mighty Mite seem to be on the verge of extinction. Injections of proven outdoor genetics such as Mendocino Madness, which are then bred for Canadian climates to finish ahead of the early frosts, are also offering new possibilities for growers up here. *Erik Biksa*



M-39 is an eastern Canadian staple.

Montreal

A lot has changed above the 45th Parallel. For years, Canada was known for exporting its top-quality buds. From the Purple Kushes of BC to the M-39s of Quebec, these strains famously made their way into the hands of American smokers. Now, with increasing pot tolerance spreading across the US, this is no longer the case.

Bountiful harvests coming out of California have severely affected the exportation of Canadian bud. Throw in the economic crisis and the resulting drop of the US dollar to an even level with the Canadian one, and the brakes were slammed on. Now strains like the Jack or the Quebec Gold are staying local, while new strains making their way from the West Coast are also being grown out, like the Medi-Kush and the Afghani Bullrider.

However, unlike the US, Canada has a federal medical cannabis program. It certainly has its faults, but it has seen some top-level growrooms being built under its auspices. These rooms are commercial-size, with more than 100 lights each, and the power company, as well as local fire and police agents, must certify the safety of the facilities.

Canada has also been on the forefront of technology. The standard basement gardens have been replaced by grow ops boasting state-of-the-art climate control, digital ballasts and top-of-the-line genetics. Not since Canada swept the *High Times* Cannabis Cup in 2004 has Canadian bud been this good. In Montreal, there are still the steady delivery services turning up with bags of four or five different strains like Jack Flash (Sensi Seeds), M-39 (the Nevil original) and FreezeLand (a quick-finishing outdoor strain that originates from a northern Dutch strain called the Friesland).

All in all, Montreal is a great city with some great bud. If you ever decide to visit here, be sure to check out the Tam-Tams, a local drum circle that hangs on Sundays near the bottom of Mont Royal. In the summer, the stoner scene is off the hook; just follow your nose and I'm sure you'll be rewarded. *Harry Resin*

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NorCal

Spring and summer got off to a cool (and thus late) start in 2012. This was similar to last year, when many outdoor growers who tried to get an early start saw their plants begin to flower early. While some growers quickly added different forms of nitrogen to try to encourage vegetative growth, some simply had to start over by planting new clones or seedlings. In the Sierra foothills late this year, rainstorms with high winds gave the outdoor gardens a pounding as well.

On top of the hardships, Northern California's Mendocino County saw its legal 99-plant "zip-tie program" canceled, forcing many legitimate caregivers to go underground once again. In July, the federal government reneged on its pledge to keep its hands off medical marijuana and initiated seizure proceedings against Harborside Health Center—one of the largest dispensaries in California—and also sent a menacing letter to Berkeley Patients Group, forcing them to temporarily close before they were able to move to a new location.

As far as up-and-coming strains go, 2012 saw a rise in popularity for the OG hybrid Girl Scout Cookies. Those who have it are growing as much as they



The upstart Girl Scout Cookies. OG or better?

can, as fast as they can. So what is GCS exactly? Rumor has it that it's the progeny of a Durban Poison male bred with an OG Kush female. Some accounts then have that offspring being crossed again with a Granddaddy Purple, while others

believe the GSC is the byproduct of interbreeding varieties such as Cherry Pie and various other Kush phenotypes. While previous years dictated that growers plant Kush and any OG variants because of demand, today the grower will forsake longer-flowering *sativas*, heirloom strains or other old favorites in favor of ones that fetch the highest market prices.

All in all, this season will produce the largest harvest ever in the state of California, with outdoor and light-deprivation crops coming down heavier than ever—despite pressure from the Feds. Legal, state-compliant outdoor growers have produced very impressive, sprawling plants in large, above-ground containers, while others have stuck to tried-and-true in-ground cultivation. Both techniques produce incredible yields, especially when utilizing super-cropping and trellising to enable complete sun penetration and superior growth. Many growers have also chosen to use mostly organic, soil-based methodologies that are less expensive and easy to obtain, mix and blend. Still, quality indoor cannabis commands a higher price in the marketplace year round. *K., Trichome Technologies*

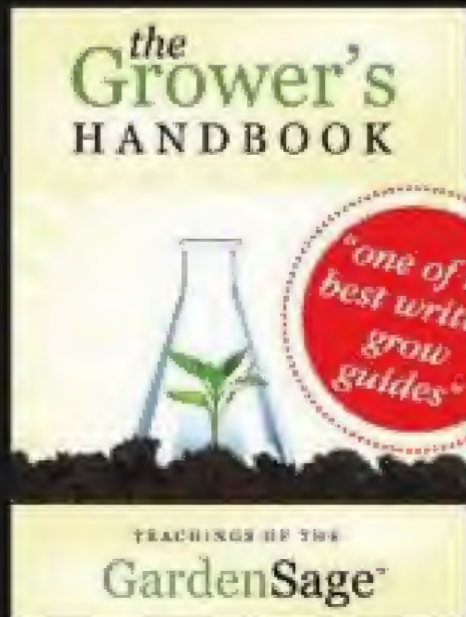
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Amsterdam

Let's leave aside the question of whether Amsterdam will remain the marijuana capital of the world, because at the moment the coffeeshops are still open and filled with great cannabis. Tourists and Dutch locals alike are sitting by the canals enjoying a good smoke.

For the past few months, Amnesia Haze has been the most popular strain—sometimes found at multiple coffeeshops with different names! While that sounds shady, it also means that the price has dropped and patrons can find her for around €10 per gram—a benchmark for good smoke in the shops. Cheese is a close second this year. At one point, it was almost impossible to get any good Cheese, but in the last six months it's been resurrected and can be found in the best coffeeshops. The Summer Olympics, held just across the channel in the UK, was a blessing for anyone looking to load up on good bud, as security was ramped up for the Games and nothing was moving out of Amsterdam for a couple of months in 2012.

Enhancing the stockpile of fine cannabis here, several advances have slowly been making their way into the hands of growers in Amsterdam. This includes



Amsterdam's Amnesia Haze is still a Top 5 strain overseas.

technology such as digital ballasts, climate controllers and CO₂ injection systems. While this equipment has long been standard in many North American grow-rooms (especially if they grow marijuana for medicinal use), these practices are

finally being adopted here in Amsterdam. As there's an abundance of grass at the moment, it's important that growers set themselves apart by increasing their standards and the quality of their product.

The newest craze sweeping the coffeeshop scene is wax. Already distributed for a while now among seed company owners and connoisseurs, wax has finally found its way onto some menus in the form of shatter.

Despite the *wietpas* legislation taking effect in the south of Holland earlier this year, things are looking up for Amsterdam. The Dutch elections in September could very well see the coffeeshop-friendly political party getting a majority. (*Editor's note: The September election results were unavailable at the time we went to press, but we have faith!*) Fingers remain crossed that Amsterdam will continue to flourish as the liberal pot haven it has been for the last 30 years. In the meantime, now is the time to visit! The shops are filled with great products, and the 25th Annual Cannabis Cup is approaching this November. There will be some amazing cannabis around (be on the lookout for the Bear OG—it'll be rare), so now's the opportunity if you have the time. *Harry Resin*

ZOB

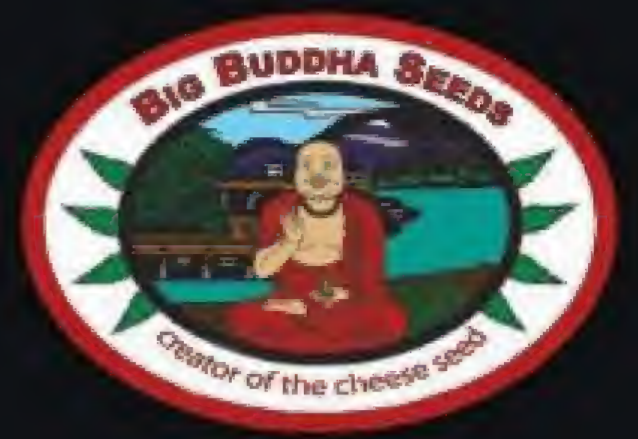
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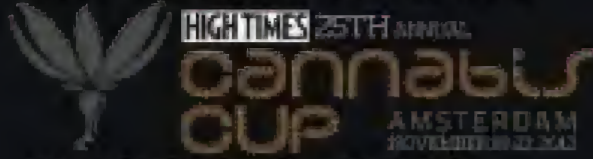
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CFCC marketing director Jeff Milly peeking into one of the grow tents.

Blazing Arizona

As Arizona's medical marijuana law approaches full implementation, a facility in Phoenix dedicated to providing turn-key grow tents onsite for cannabis caregivers prepares for an imminent statewide transition to fully licensed dispensaries. *By Elise McDonough*



This state-of-the-art cultivation facility rented tents to caregivers.

Tucked away in a nondescript business park north of Phoenix, the Compassion First Caregiver Circle opened in February 2012 and immediately allowed any caregiver approved by the state to rent a grow tent and begin cultivating medical marijuana. With expert guidance, state-of-the-art equipment and a supportive community all available onsite, the CFCC calls itself the nation's first medical marijuana cultivation center and serves as a patient advocacy organization as well as a do-it-yourself community garden (albeit one that happens to be located indoors, monitored 24/7 by security guards). The CFCC also promotes its third-party cultivation location as a model for the industry—one that allows caregivers to sleep soundly, free of worry about home invasions or theft, while providing a safe space for patients and caregivers to meet, network and share knowledge.

At the CFCC, each caregiver is

responsible for a private 8' x 8' grow tent, complete with 600-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) and T5 fluorescent lights, and divided into separate chambers for flowering and vegetating cannabis plants, 14 of which they can grow at any given time while remaining compliant with state law. Separated into six distinct bays, the 6,000-square-foot warehouse offers space for up to 45 caregivers, each growing for no more than five qualified patients simultaneously. In total, that means the capacity to serve up to 525 patients, providing each with an eighth to a quarter of an ounce of cannabis per week, yielded from an ongoing perpetual-harvest system. The CFCC even opened a second location in South Phoenix with the capacity to house an additional 60 caregivers' tents.

Chief operations officer John Ferrita explains the CFCC's system: "Caregivers are handed a clone every Wednesday, and they are responsible for transplanting it, watering it and taking care of it all the



Activist Irv Rosenfeld visited CFCC for a 4/20 celebration.



Color-coded nutrient reservoirs



Nutrients to suit every different stage of plant growth

way through harvest. Then they dry it for a week to two weeks and cure it after that. When it's ready, the caregivers meet with the patients to make the transaction. So, truly, the caregiver does everything."

The CFCC, in turn, provides those caregivers with security, clones, equipment, premixed nutrients, an optimal indoor environment, a drying room, and on-call grow experts available to answer questions as well as identify pests or plant deficiencies. Caregivers cannot charge for their time or make a profit on the cannabis, which is sold at a fair market price—about \$300 per ounce.

Founded, designed and operated by Scottsdale businessman and philanthropist Gerald Gaines, the CFCC cultivation center was outfitted by professional electrical and HVAC engineers with Honeywell systems to maintain optimal humidity and keep CO₂ levels constant at 1,400 ppm. A 1,200-gallon reverse-osmosis system removes sediment and chlorine from the local water supply. And a master grower mixes huge batches of Botanicare Nutrient Systems CMS17 according to a color-coded system that designates a range of different nutrient tanks for the various stages of plant growth. All the caregivers have to do is measure out the correct amount and then water it into their plants, all of which are grown in coco to ensure against overfertilization.

Naturally, this kind of one-size-fits-all approach creates challenges—for example, some cannabis strains require a different feeding regimen than others. But overall, the system is a successful example of a caregiver model with the potential to be copied and exported elsewhere—even as Arizona's nascent medical marijuana program is about to change fundamentally.



Caregivers can cultivate any strain they desire.



Each of the 45 grow tents is divided into a vegetative and flowering chamber.



Each caregiver can grow for five patients, providing each patient with up to a quarter ounce per week.

The Dawn of Dispensaries

Arizona's Medical Marijuana Act, (the AMMA, also known as Proposition 203) passed by less than 5,000 votes in November 2010 after facing all manners of official opposition from anti-drug zealots like Keep AZ Drug Free, county attorneys and sheriffs, the Chamber of Commerce and even hypocritical "states' rights" Republican Gov. Jan Brewer, who proclaimed during a press conference: "Don't be bullied into believing this is about 'compassion' for sick people."

Brewer went on to claim that "almost all marijuana recommendations come from a few doctors who, for say \$150, will prescribe pot to nearly anyone"; she also warned that most cardholders would be teenagers. After Prop. 203 passed, Brewer sought to subvert voters' wishes by filing a lawsuit seeking a federal judgment on whether state officials administering the medical marijuana program could be at risk for prosecution by the Feds. Brewer also ordered the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) to reject all dispensary applications, stymieing implementation of the law and unintentionally creating the need for a caregiver model such as the CFCC cultivation center. In the meantime, more than 25,000 citizens

qualified to become cardholding patients, with people from 31 to 50 years old comprising 40 percent of all medical marijuana users in Arizona—hardly the deluge of teenage stoners Brewer threatened voters with.

Fortunately, in January 2012, US District Judge Susan R. Bolton dismissed Brewer's lawsuit, writing that a "generalized threat" is not sufficient to merit a ruling about state law. Then additional legal pressure initiated by the CFCC in the case *Arizona v. Compassion* was successful in forcing the state to develop fair and equitable rules to award dispensary licenses. On August 7, the DHS chose 97 potential dispensary operators from a lotto. By September 2012, Arizona cannabis businesses could be up and running, including two new CFCC dispensaries in Fountain Hills and west Phoenix.

Medical cannabis dispensaries promise patients the convenience of a retail experience, but due to a provision in Arizona's law, once the first dispensary opens in September, no new patients will be able to sign up with a cultivating caregiver, and existing patients and caregivers will be dropped from the system after their cards reach the 12-month expiration date. After that, no one will be

allowed to cultivate their own cannabis if they live within a 25-mile radius of a dispensary. For the CFCC, that means the tents must be removed from its cultivation facility in anticipation of converting each 1,000-square-foot bay into a huge growroom to service the retail operations.

"We hope to drive the price down and make cannabis affordable for all the patients in the state. That's one of our long-term goals," says Fertitta, while marketing director Jeff Milly is looking forward to the potential for "experimenting within each one of these bays with a different type of system, a different type of nutrient, different strains, until we find what's most efficient out here in Arizona."

Still, not everyone is looking favorably on the changes. Asked if dispensaries will serve patients better than the caregiver system, Kimberly Haslett, the president of the Southwest Arizona Patient Alliance, replied: "No, I like the collective model—it works very well. Our goal is to provide medicine to patients at the most compassionate price, and dispensaries aren't necessarily going to achieve that goal. But, I am applying for a dispensary license, because I want to continue to serve my patients."

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CFCC Founder Gaines told the *Arizona Republic* that the biggest challenge preventing him from opening a dispensary could come from the governor's office and Attorney General Tom Horne, who is also rabidly opposed to safe access. Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery has laid out a plan to dismantle the entire AMMA, turning patients back into felons. Montgomery told Capitol Media Services that "Once I get that ruling ... I'm going to turn around and issue guidance to law enforcement agencies ... that medical marijuana cards are no longer a defense to the personal possession, and that we will move forward and prosecute those cases."

The vagaries of these legal changes will take some time to work out. In the meantime, activists continue to educate lawmakers and work for improvements in the AMMA. As Haslett explains, "The 25-mile rule is an issue right now—there's a lot of patients and caregivers who want to get rid of that law, and they're challenging it



Arizona patients deserve safe access to this healing herb.

based on monopoly." Another important legal issue is the current ban on cannabis concentrates and tinctures under a provision in the Arizona Criminal Code (ARS 13-3401, known as Title 13), aimed at combating so-called designer drugs such as "bath salts" and synthetic cannabis-like substances.

Doug Banfelder, dispensary insurance specialist and founder of the Arizona Wellness Chamber of Commerce, an industry group created especially to

promote medical marijuana, says: "In the AMMA, there is a clause that allows for mixtures and preparations, so that seems to show that there is anticipation under this law for these kinds of products ... There's a move to kick it to the Pharmacy Board, which makes a lot of sense. Some people have been talking about filing an exploratory suit to see if the state courts agree with this interpretation of the law; the other alternative is to seek a legislative remedy next year. We are hoping to get cannabis removed from that list."

Also, the DHS heard directly from patients and advocates in May during a hearing to determine if the AMMA should be expanded to include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and migraines as qualifying conditions for medical marijuana. More than two dozen people spoke up in favor of making the change, including the wife of a combat veteran suffering from PTSD. Another was Charise Voss, a 47-year-old lifelong migraine sufferer who reported that medical marijuana changed her life.

"I have no side effects, and for the first time in my life I am pain-free," Voss said. "I never thought I'd be here today to be an advocate for marijuana, but what we need is a choice." ✨



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All year long, we at *High Times* survey and test hundreds of pot strains to discover which are the most prized by growers, patients and connoisseurs. Our senior cultivation editor Danny Danko unveils this year's illustrious list of the tastiest and most potent cannabis varieties available to cultivators and aficionados.

Top 10 Strains of 2012

Kalashnikova

Green House Seeds

greenhouseseeds.nl

Two powerhouse genetic giants contributed to the production of Kalashnikova, the newest *indica*-dominant hybrid released by the Green House Seeds juggernaut. Winning praise from growers and smokers alike (as well as more Cannabis Cups than any other crew), "King of Cannabis" Arjan and his right-hand man Franco continue to create marijuana masterpieces.

Kalashnikova exhibits typical (if not somewhat exaggerated) *indica* growth patterns. She's a heavy feeder perfect for the sea of green (SOG) or screen of green (ScrOG) methods of growing, and her bushy structure means short internodal lengths and plenty of lateral branching. Medical patients report that this strain is great at helping to stimulate appetite. Kalashnikova is available in feminized and autoflowering varieties as well.

Lineage: AK-47 x White Widow

Flowering time: 55 to 63 days

Winning strains
always rise to the
top of the heap.





OG Ghost Train Haze

Rare Dankness

raredankness.com

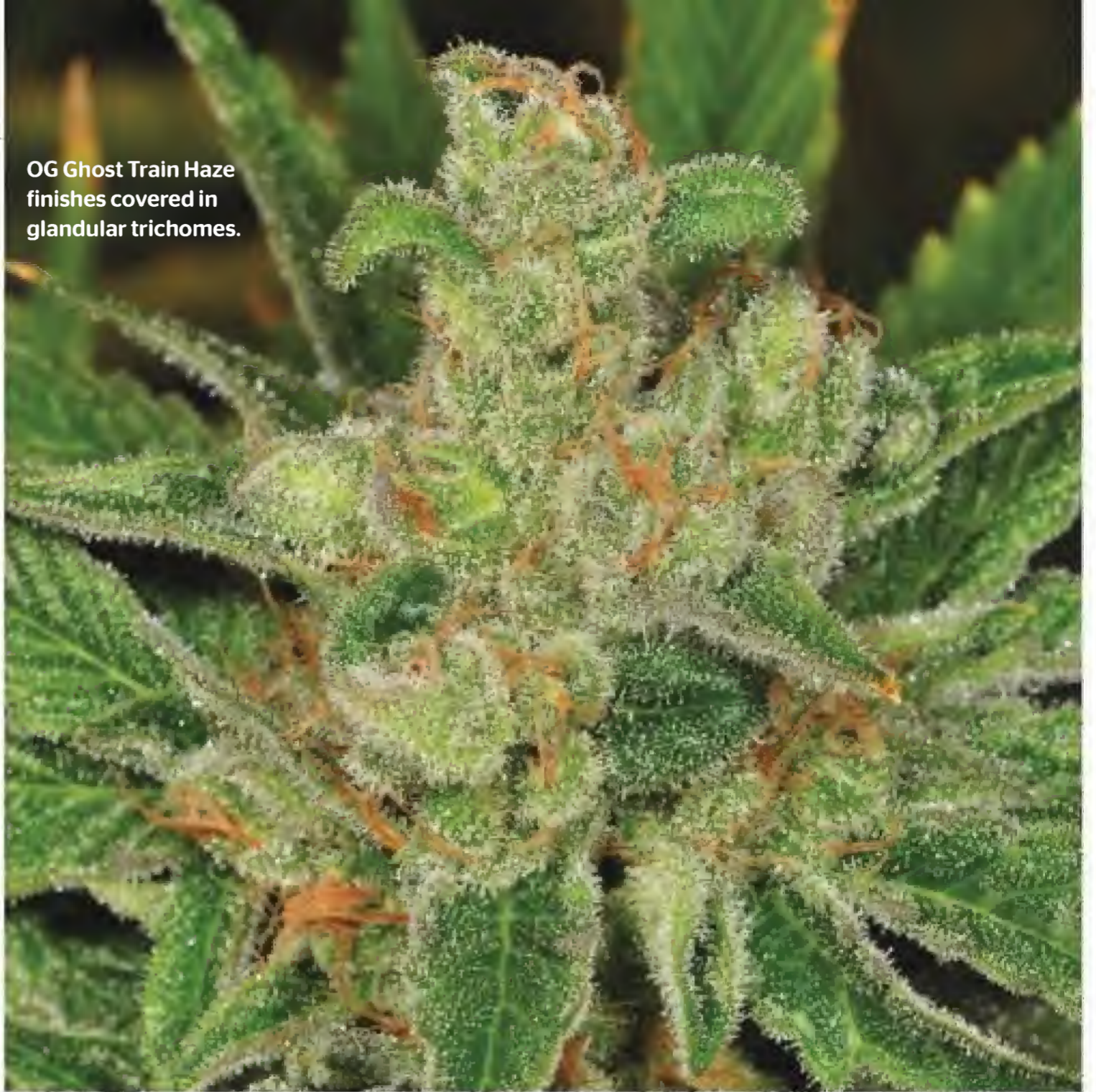
This amazing marijuana strain made our May 2012 cover as the “Strongest Strain on Earth” after testing at a whopping 25.49% THC at our 2011 *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver. The OG Ghost Train Haze packs an amazing *sativa*-dominant punch that will have your heart racing and your head spinning. The amount of sugary trichome glands these plants produce is equally mind-boggling.

The spicy flavor and Hazy aroma from the female side is complemented by the potency of the Kush male, which together provide a connoisseur-quality experience that lasts and lasts. Rare Dankness breeder Scott tells me this strain excels in a warm outdoor climate and is particularly high-yielding when trellised and kept low to allow the branches to fill out the canopy.

Lineage: OG Kush x (Trainwreck x Nevil's Haze)

Flowering time: 65 to 80 days

OG Ghost Train Haze finishes covered in glandular trichomes.



A closer look at Sage n' Sour reveals swelling gland heads filled with essential oils.



A Sage n' Sour nug

Sage n' Sour

T.H.Seeds

thseeds.com

This strain has been around for a while, having taken home third place in the *sativa* category at the 2004 *High Times* Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, yet she's still wowing judges and aficionados today. She's an oldie but a goodie, combining the unique musky taste of S.A.G.E. with the strength and lemony punch of the real-deal Sour Diesel out of NYC (which also happens to be the name

of T.H.Seeds breeder Adam's newborn son—so congrats to him and Cici on the birth of Nyc Orion Dunn!).

Growers should be prepared to devote a bit more time to the vegetative stage of growth with this strain, and they'll be rewarded with high yields of super-spicy nuggets. She's perfect for deep-water culture (DWC) or large containers indoors and thrives in the full sun outdoors as well.

Lineage: S.A.G.E. x Sour Diesel

Flowering time: 60 to 65 days

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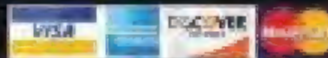
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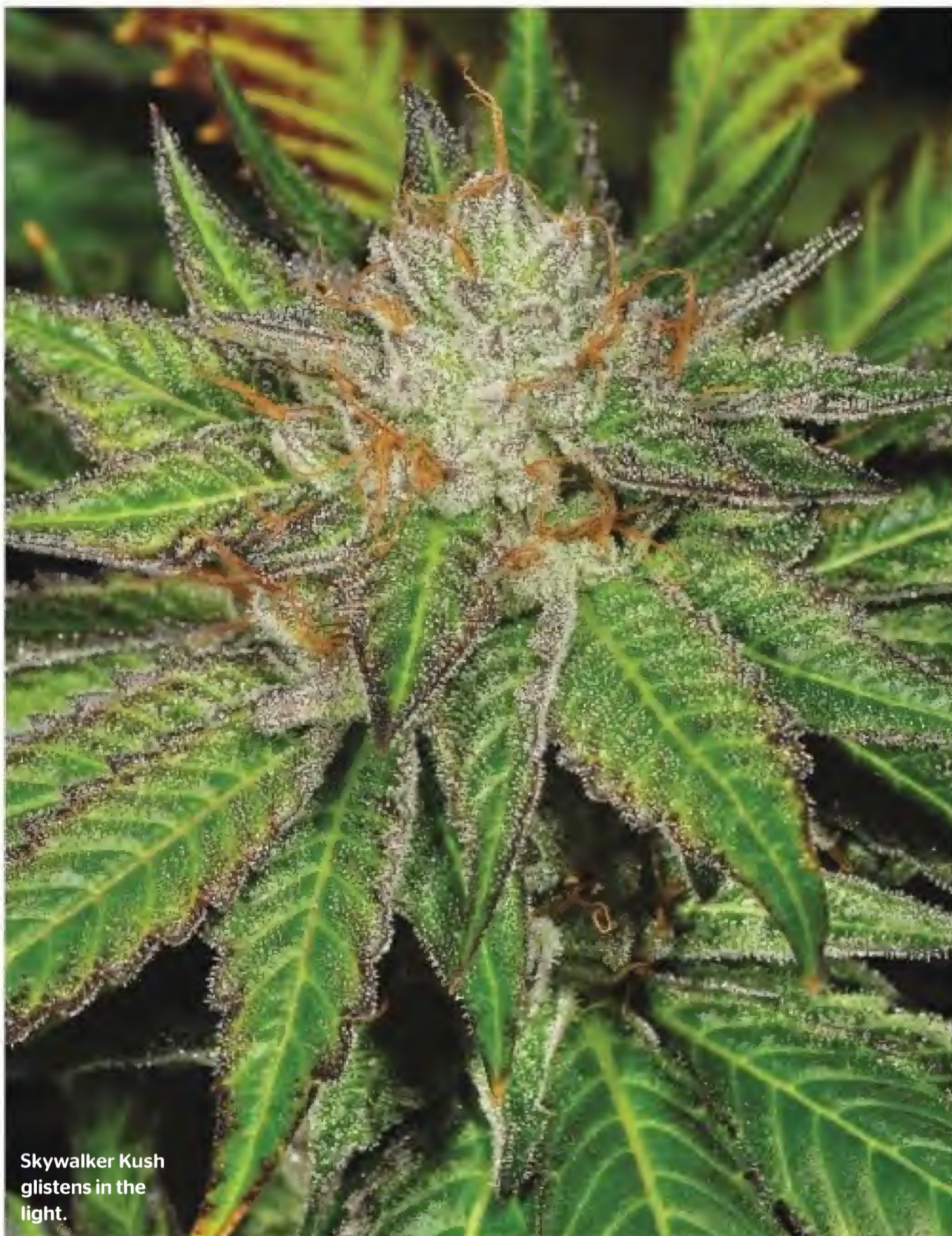
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Skywalker Kush glistens in the light.

Skywalker Kush

DNA Genetics
dnagenetics.com

If you're seeking an OG Kush-type marijuana variety that can produce heavier harvests, look no further than the Skywalker Kush from these multiple-award-winning breeders. The DNA boys crossed the hard-to-get original Skywalker clone with a pedigreed OG Kush male, and the results are fantastic—offering all of the potency plus bigger yields.

Skywalker buds have also consistently tested at THC levels higher than 20% at multiple labs. The dense nugs, covered with lots of swollen resin glands, produce some of the tastiest, most potent hash we've ever tried as well. So use the Force and get yourself some Skywalker!

Lineage: Skywalker x OG Kush

Flowering time: 60 to 65 days



LA Cheese stinks up the growroom in a good way.

Shiatsu

BC Bud Depot
bcbuddepot.com

We were lucky enough to get an early taste of the newest offering from BC Bud Depot, and we were quite impressed. Breeder Matt traveled all the way to Japan to acquire a special strain called Shiatsu Kush from the island of Amami Oshima, where locals in the cannabis underground bred it to target the different shiatsu regions of the body.

The Shiatsu Kush proceeded to take home the gold at a super-secret Japanese harvest festival, and it's easy to see why: The heavy, narcotic stone provides obvious medicinal benefits, releasing stress and soothing tense bodies. The taste and aroma are hard to place, blending the familiar Kush combo of diesel fuel and pine with exotic notes of vanilla and cedar. So if you're feeling the need to restore your inner harmony, relax with some today.

Lineage: Shiatsu Kush

Flowering time: 50 to 56 days



Shiatsu comes all the way from Japan.

LA Cheese

Big Buddha Seeds
bigbuddha.com

Big Buddha released these seeds after the strain won third place overall at the 2010 Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam for the Green Place coffeeshop. The LA Cheese blends the famous UK Cheese cut with LA Confidential genes kindly provided by DNA Genetics into a 90% *indica* couch-lock powerhouse. The tight buds smell pungent, reminiscent of the Cheese, but when ground up, they release more subtle scents such as caramel and bubblegum.

Growers will recognize the thick, dark green leaves and lesser branching of a true *indica*. For best results, start with lighter feeding in the vegetative stage but switch to moderate to high feeding during flowering.

Lineage: UK Exodus Cheese x LA Confidential (reversed)

Flowering time: 55 to 70 days

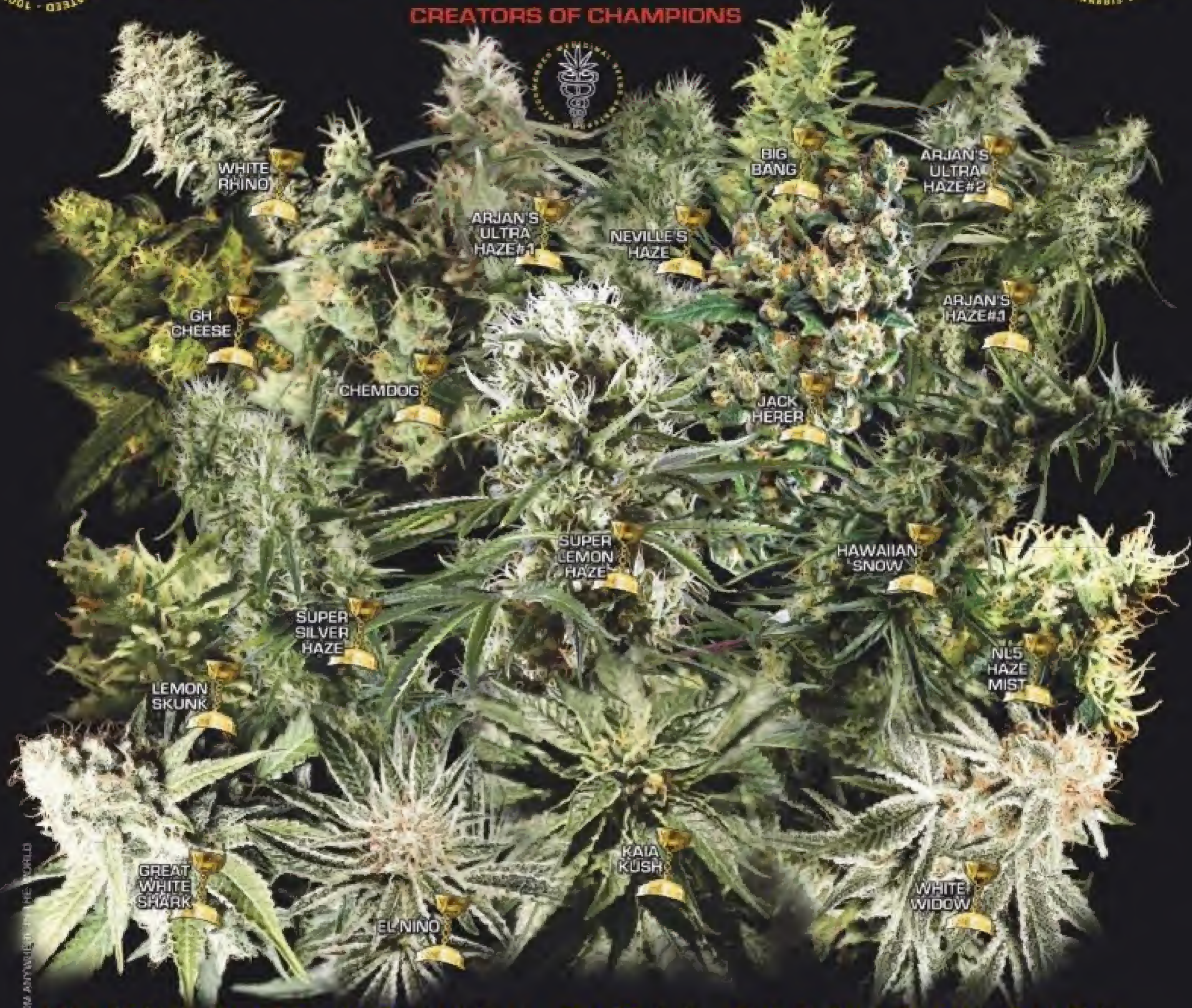
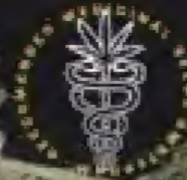


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Dead Head OG



Dead Head OG

The Cali Connection
thecaliconnection.co.uk

Kush strains of varying degrees of pedigree are flooding the market these days, but few have the long-lasting power of the old-school OG. One version that certainly doesn't fall into the watered-down category is the Dead Head OG from the Cali Connection. Breeder Swerve sprinkled his male San Fernando Valley OG Kush pollen onto a female Chem Dog '91 cutting to produce seeds of the finest caliber.

Crack open a greasy nugget of Dead Head OG and an intense lemon-and-fuel odor emanates throughout the room. Fire it up and marvel at the accompanying buzz, felt in the head and body for several hours—one that's both introspective and giggly. As an added bonus, the yields are quite reasonable given the relatively short flowering time.

Lineage: Chem Dog 91 (a.k.a. the Skunk VA cut) x SFV OGK F4

Flowering time: 56 days



Deadhead OG produces thick, dark colored leaves.

Moby Dick Autoflowering

Dinafem
dinafem.org

European growers prize feminized, autoflowering plants for ease of growing and year-round harvests from seed, and American pot farmers are now starting to catch on to the benefits. Moby Dick from Dinafem outperforms every other "auto" we've seen from seed to harvest, growing large with dense, resinous branches while most others finish on the short, stocky side.

Like most autoflowering plants, Moby Dick is a heavy feeder that tolerates high levels of nutrients and responds with explosive flower growth. The finished spears cure up quite spicy, smelling like fresh pine sap with a touch of sweet sandalwood. The resin production starts early and ramps up as the plants reach peak ripeness.

Lineage: Haze Auto x White Widow Auto
Flowering time: 75 days from seed

**Moby Dick
Autoflowering**





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Crazy Train





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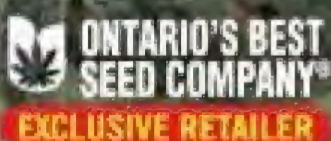
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Girl Scout Cookies

Clone Only

The Bay Area has been abuzz about this strain, and now the entire cannabis world is wondering how to get their hands on it. Rumors of single cuttings selling for thousands of dollars and pounds wholesaling at a whopping \$5,000 have those in the know salivating for a taste of “The Cookies.”

And what a taste! There’s hints of vanilla and mint underneath the ever-present citrus Kush funk, and the pleasant high lasts for hours. Medical users swear by its anxiety-free pain-relieving qualities, too. The original version was bred by the Hemp Center in San Francisco, but there are now several phenotypes available in NorCal in clone form to grow out at home. Cold temps late in flowering will turn these hard little nuggets purple as they mature.

Lineage: (OG Kush x Durban Poison x Cherry Kush) x OG Kush

Flowering time: 63 to 70 days

Crazy Train is easy to trim and great to smoke.



Crazy Train

TGA Genetics

tgagenetics.com

Subcool’s interpretation of the well-known Purple Trainwreck simply oozes with essential oils. Fast-flowering with a good calyx-to-leaf ratio, the Crazy Train is a dream come true for growers and connoisseurs alike. The fruity bouquet starts with a big blast of grape and lavender, followed by hints of “melon and champagne,” according to Sub. The thick, strong smoke works wonders for patients looking to relax their bodies and relieve muscle pain.

Subcool recommends topping these plants early “to form a multi-headed bush.” Trimming these plants is also a breeze, and many of the fan leaves will fade and fall off prior to harvest as well. You’ll get two phenotypes from these seeds: a stretchier one like the Trainwreck, and a shorter, stouter one like the Urkel.

Lineage: Blood Wreck (Trainwreck x Trinity) x Querkle (Purple Urkel x Space Queen)

Flowering time: 56 days 🌟

SUBCOOL, LOCHFOOT

Bonus!

High Times Readers Pick Their Favorites

Several months ago, we put up a poll asking readers and visitors to *hightimes.com* to choose their favorite pot varieties of 2012. Below are the top 10 results as of early August (current results are posted at hightimes.com/strainpoll). Most of these strains have been included as Top 10 Strains in the past.

OG Kush: 17%

Blue Dream: 15.8%

Sour Diesel: 14.3%

White Widow: 10.6%

Super Silver Haze: 9.2%

Granddaddy Purps: 7.7%

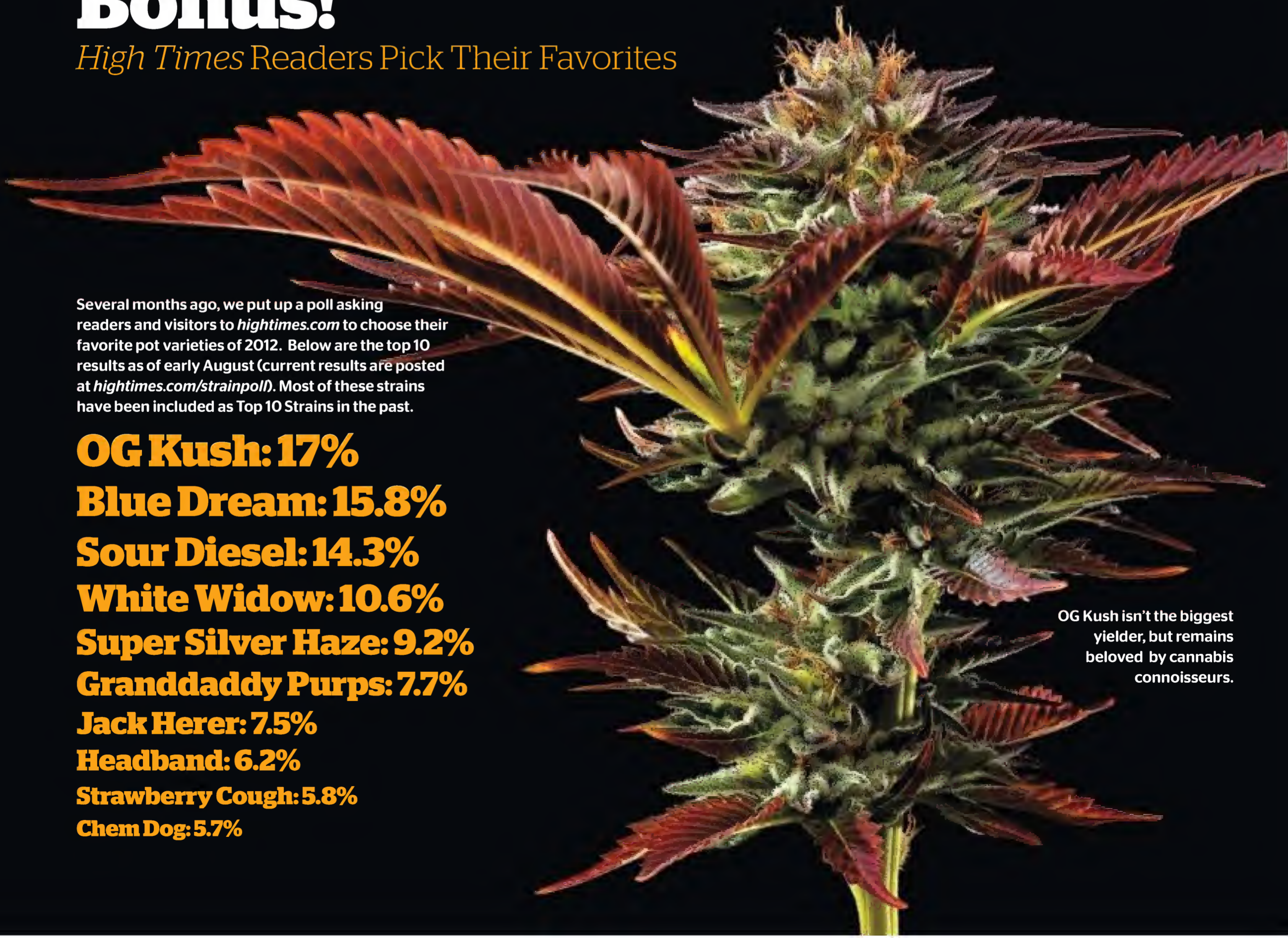
Jack Herer: 7.5%

Headband: 6.2%

Strawberry Cough: 5.8%

Chem Dog: 5.7%

OG Kush isn’t the biggest yielder, but remains beloved by cannabis connoisseurs.



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www.thecaliconnectionltd.co.uk

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The Medicine Man

Story & photos
by Freebie



Growing quality medicine takes time and relies on a lot of science.

Recently, scientists at the Halent Laboratories cannabis testing facility became extremely excited about a new strain with a unique cannabinoid makeup. The Pineapple Purps, which was being tested for the first time, produced some surprising results: While low in psychoactive THC, its levels of THVC—a newly tested and medically effective cannabinoid—were off the charts. THVC is being investigated for its value as an anti-epileptic, anorectic, bone-growth stimulator and symptom reliever for Parkinson's disease. An average level of THVC is normally less than 1 percent

of the total cannabinoid profile, while this strain tested above 5 percent.

As a result, one casual cannabis grower suddenly became a highly sought-after supplier of this healing herb. Dispensaries began contacting him and asking for Pineapple Purps directly. Despite his personal disinterest in smoking the strain, this grower couldn't resist the idea of helping to decrease other people's pain. The demand became so great that he even had to build a new growroom. Because of these efforts, the grower earned the nickname "Medicine Man," and he is thoroughly enjoying his new calling.

The Genetics Game

So where did this magical medicine plant come from? Did some botanist conduct a painstaking breeding program for years to find the perfect balance of *indica* and *sativa*? No one knows for sure. As the story goes, the plant emerged from a bagseed. But that still doesn't answer the question of why an unknown grower would choose to germinate and propagate this particular seed, or who finally named it. In fact, the world may never know who to thank.

But there's no mystery as to why the strain was an unpopular choice among many growers: It's a very low-yielding



Higher trichome volume equals higher potency.



Truck trailer growrooms fit in warehouses easily.

A Two-Room System

To start his cycles, the Medicine Man buys 6-inch clones in sets of 60 from his local NorCal vendor. The clones arrive in rockwool, which transplants easily into any grow medium. This allows the Medicine Man to focus on flowering gardens without having to maintain vegetative rooms. This is also how he got started growing an unknown strain like Pineapple Purps. A four-light garden at home wasn't enough space to provide the amount of Pineapple Purps being ordered by dispensaries, which is why the Medicine Man had to build that second growroom.

The new room is remarkably similar to the first, except that it has seven lights and is completely enclosed in a shipping container. The timing of the two cycles is staggered by 30 days, allowing an alternating harvest every month. Multiple strains are grown at the same time in both rooms. The facility produces approximately two pounds of cannabis per 1,000-watt light, with the trailer garden showing slightly less (around 1.5 pounds per light). Other than the location and size, the two rooms are almost identical.

plant relative to other available strains, making it more expensive to produce. The buds are beautifully colored and frosty, but they produce funny, lanky shapes that don't improve its bag appeal. The Pineapple Purps looks and tastes wonderfully fruity, but since it's a low-THC strain, that wasn't enough to make it competitive for growers' attention. Indeed, it's lucky that this unlikely candidate ever made it to a testing facility, instead of being lost in the shuffle of strain selection.

The Pineapple Purps has had its medicinal value proven by laboratory tests and among patients who require relief from pain, but those of us who



Shipping containers are easily outfitted and mobile.

enjoy a nice buzz generally prefer strains with a higher THC content. Even the Medicine Man likes to include trippy strains such as Space Queen, Mental Floss and Heavy Duty Fruity in his garden. But that's okay, because it's a garden with something for everyone.

Hydro Time

The growrooms are set up with the plants in 4' x 8' hydro tables, each with two lights and drip irrigation. The drain-to-waste design makes every feeding as fresh as the first, and in the shipping-container system, the runoff collects in a reservoir on the bottom for easy reuse in landscaping. The homemade feeding system is simple to build and runs smoothly without clogs. A half-inch PVC tube rests across the tops of the 2-gallon pots; it has two outlets drilled above each pot where the nutrient solution flows out.

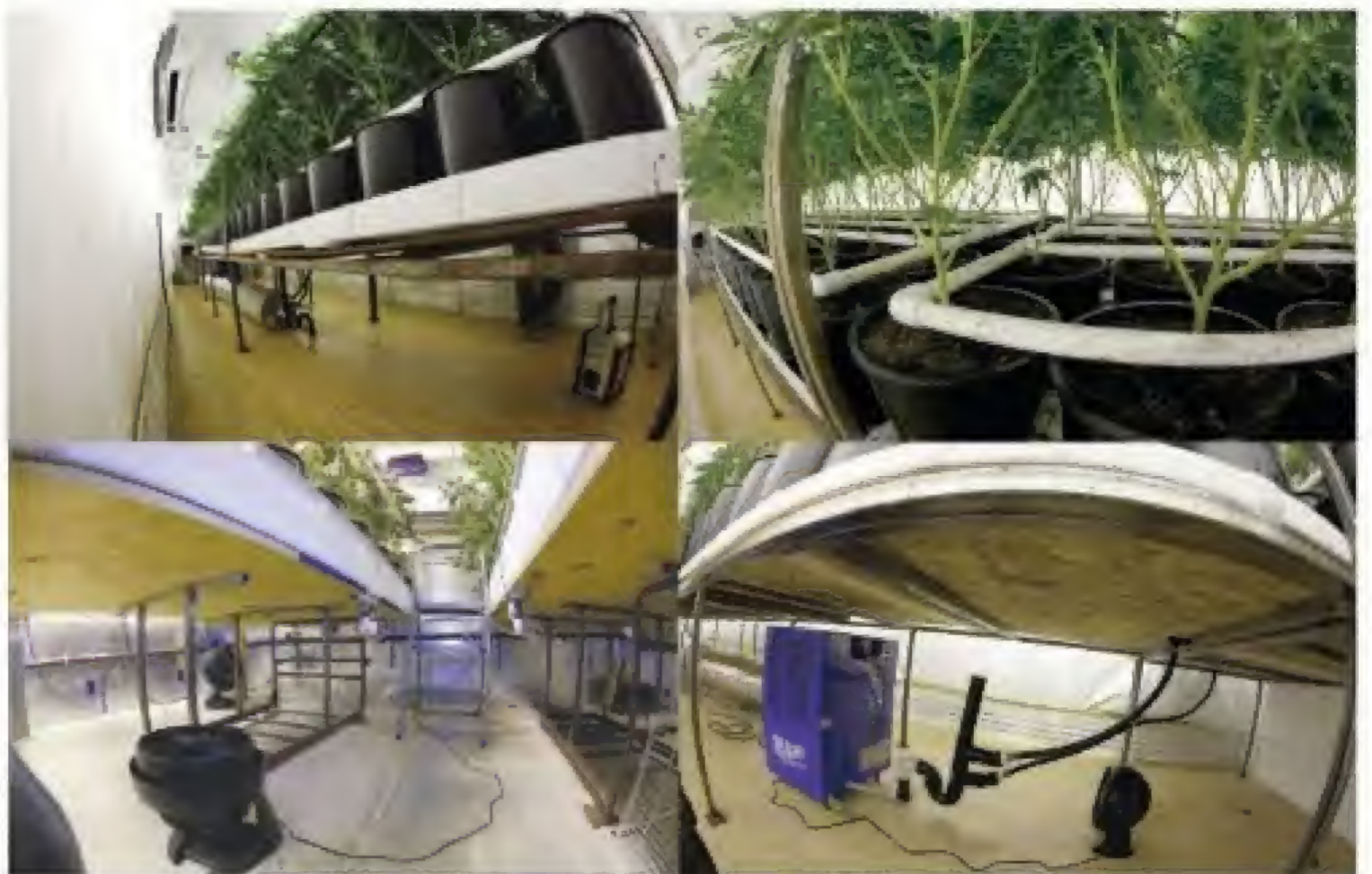
Five of these pipes run lengthwise down each table, feeding a row of nine or 10 plants. The pipes meet at a manifold on one end of the table. This PVC manifold connects the feeding pipes in the table to the network of tubes that lead from the 150-gallon reservoir outside the room, where the water stays cool and accessible. A 1,000-gallon-per-hour pump on a timer moves the water to the tables for one-minute feeding periods two or three times per day. Also in the reservoir is a 1-horsepower chiller to maintain a cool 65°F water temperature.



Industrial-strength cooling systems.

Creating the Environment

The most difficult challenge when designing a closed-system growroom is providing enough cooling to balance the lights and ballasts as well as accessories like dehumidifiers, fans and pumps. For big-time cooling, commercial growers have abandoned the window unit or portable air conditioner for the increased efficiency and reliability of a mini-split, a medium-sized AC unit with a compressor outside of the growroom and an outlet inside the room that is easily installed



Clockwise: Plant containers on raised tables; a top-feed irrigation system; fans are kept underneath for air circulation; drainage piping for table run-off.

high on a wall, out of the way. The unit is run by remote control.

The mini-split was created to offer less expensive cooling options for small homes and buildings, so certain adjustments are made for growroom use. The compressor was designed to be installed outside, but it operates well when stealthily enclosed in a room with adequate airflow. For the four-light room, a 2-ton mini-split pumps 24,000 BTUs of cooling power. The room with 7,000 watts uses a dual mini-split, meaning that the 3 tons of cooling power are pumped through two outlets, allowing for more even cooling in the long, narrow area. Another unique use of the shipping container is that the compartment in the

front (originally for cooling) houses the outdoor portion of the unit; every part is fully contained, and the trailer could legally (and safely) drive down any highway unnoticed.

Humidity presents an ongoing battle, and two different types of dehumidifier are used. Because of space and power limitations, the larger room runs the 7-pint Ideal Air dehumidifier. The home-room uses the Medicine Man's personal favorite: the Santa Fe Classic. This commercial unit draws more water from the air using less power than any other machine or combination of them. The Medicine Man puts his love for it simply: "It is the best ever created."



Without air-cooled lights, AC units run in the growroom to keep temps down.

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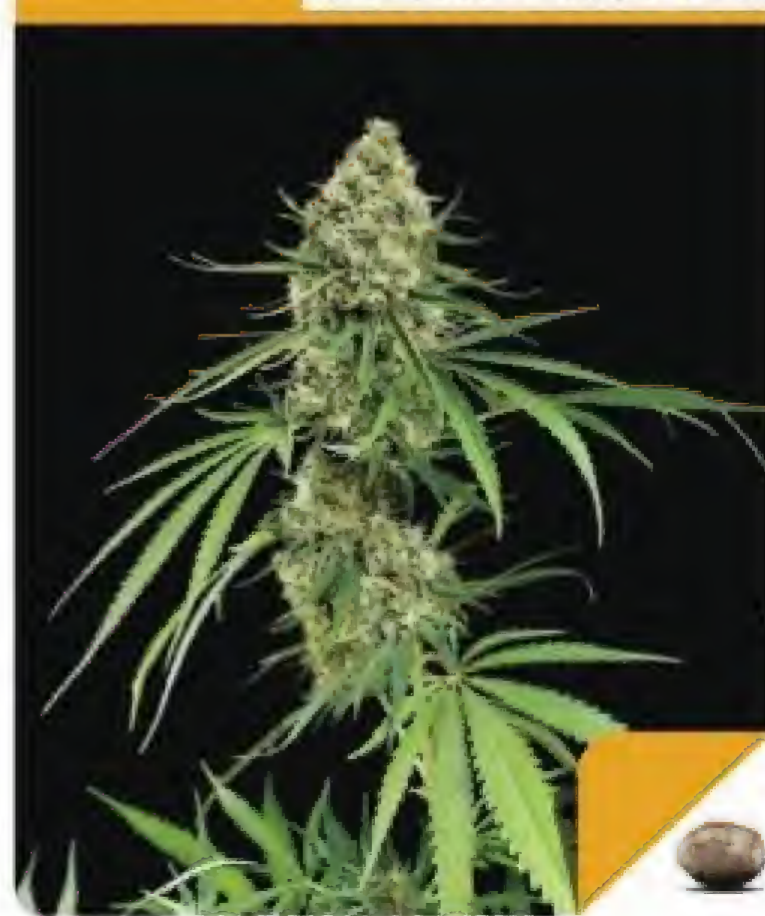
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Lighting

The same 1,000-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps are used throughout the entire cycle; the only change is in the hours of light. The large air conditioner at each location allows the lights to run bare-bulb, creating a sleek, simple look in the rooms. The electronic ballasts hang high on the walls, safe from floods and fully accessible. Again, the AC units make it possible to run the lights and ballasts inside the room without problems from added heat. Having the ballasts inside is necessary in this case for stealth. Each of these rooms is completely self-contained: The trailer can be unplugged and driven down any highway without triggering suspicion, and the house can be closed off completely behind a single innocuous-looking door.

Veg 'Em Up

When the trays of clones arrive at the facility, they are immediately dipped in Green Cure to remove any powdery mildew or pests. This is done in the reservoir/staging area, before the plants are ever allowed into the growroom. Only after being treated are these babies transferred to their new home, where they will remain for the remainder of their growth. Because the two rooms run on opposite schedules, there is no space available to veg the plants other than the flowering room. The babies are planted



with their rockwool cubes into 4-inch pots and given 24 hours of light for eight days, then transplanted into 2-gallon pots of coco mix. The plants continue to veg for two to four days before the light cycle is changed. Taking advantage of extra feeding opportunities, the vegging plants are given a foliar feed every five days in addition to their normal feed. The foliar feed is a solution of kelp, fish emulsion and a product called Green Plus. This treatment is continued until bud-set, about two weeks into flowering.

Constant Cycles

To maintain the regular sequence of harvesting two alternating rooms, only strains that finish their flowering in 55 to 57 days are used. This rule is not too limiting, plus it allows the Medicine Man to compare different strains through maturity. Two weeks after he changes the light cycle to 12/12, the growth pattern changes from stretching branches to tufts of hair at the nodes. At this time, the foliar feed is abandoned and nothing else is sprayed on any smokable parts of the plants. All lower branches and nodes are removed, and a nylon trellis is added to the PVC frame for the branches to grow into. This job reliably falls after the other room has been planted, meaning no rest for this busy farmer.

Organic Mixture

Coco coir doesn't provide a sufficient medium for the organic parts of the feeding regimen, so the mixture was reformulated to create a comfortable place for microbes to live. Starting with 80% coco and 10% percent peat moss, the Medicine Man adds perlite for drainage and worm castings and microbes bring it to life. Having a strong microflora (i.e., a system of biotic uptake helpers) gives these plants better access to more nutrients and improves their natural defenses against disease. In this system, a homemade microbial tea is brewed fresh weekly and hand-fed to each plant until the start of flush. In between the hand feedings, the plants are given General Hydroponics' three-part Flora Nova at the manufacturer's suggested levels through the PVC feeding system, with the reservoir refilled every four days (though this feeding is skipped on the hand-feed days).

From top: A trellis screen helps support and separate growing shoots; tall sativas need extra top space to grow well; fans above the canopy prevent heat pockets from forming.

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The Big Finish

Harvest day is always organized and predictable, which is necessary to maintain the alternating cycle in the two rooms. On day 55 of flowering, everything comes down. All the buds are immediately trimmed and bucked off the stems, then spread onto tiered mesh hanging racks to dry in a closed, dark room with indirect airflow from oscillating wall fans. A large recirculating carbon scrubber controls the strong odor. After three or four days at 50% humidity and 80°F, the buds are dry and ready to be weighed and put into Mason jars to begin curing. During the first week, the jars are opened daily to exchange air, but the buds will finish their cure in the processing and storage rooms of the dispensaries.



These trimmed and manicured buds are ready for curing.

Living the Life

The Medicine Man did not seek out this role or responsibility. A casual pot grower like you or me, he stumbled onto something special and chose not to let it go. The medical potential of the Pineapple Purps is still being unlocked, and without people willing to grow strains that are high in THVC or CBD, this kind of medicine would likely never make

it to market. He works hard to make it available at regular 30-day intervals instead of one big, simpler harvest. He also invests more time on the phone with scientists and chemists than most growers would care to do. He is no shaman or doctor, but he has a strong sense of responsibility and an ethic of care that makes it clear why he's become the Medicine Man. ✨

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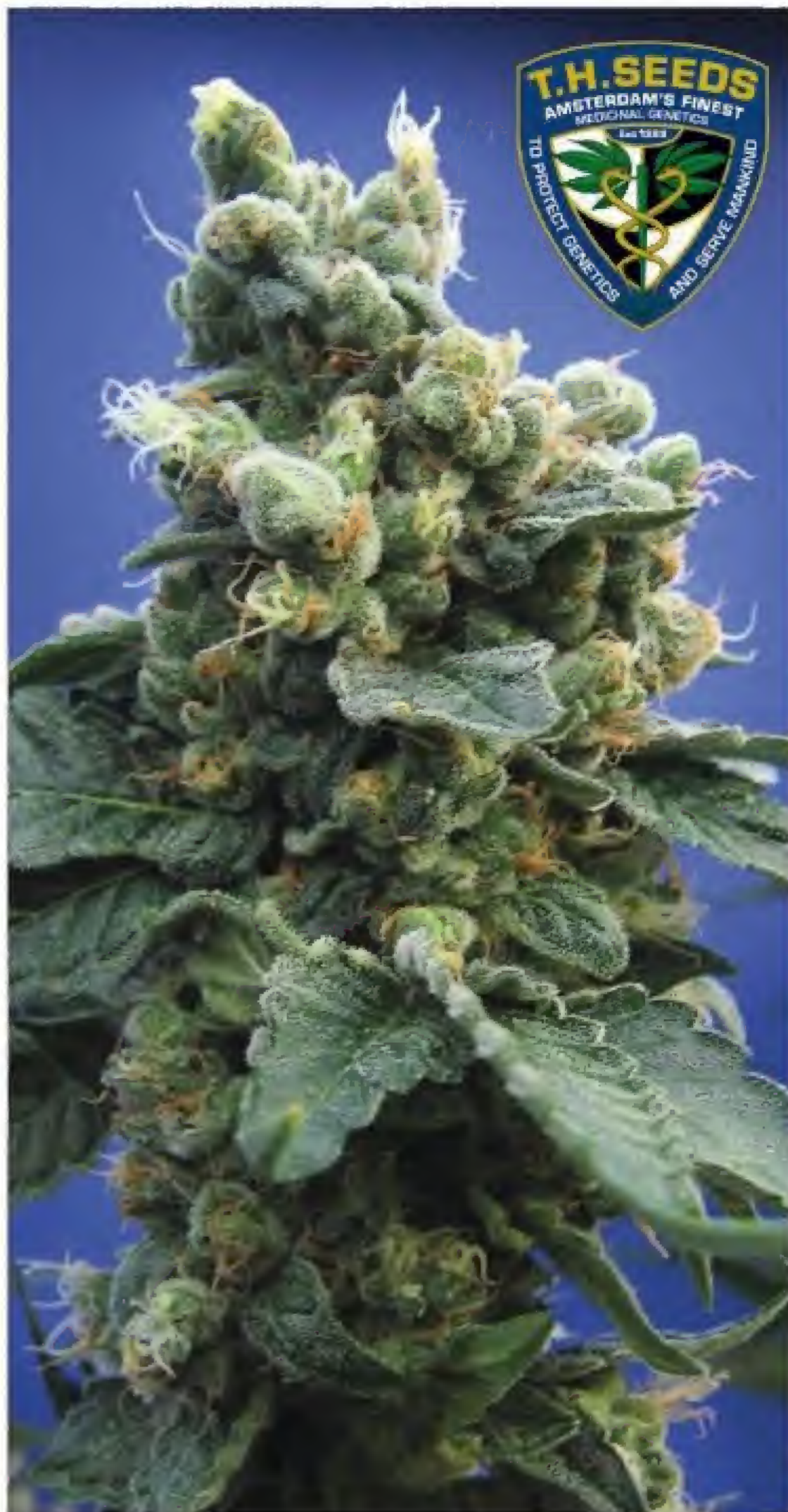
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The Revelation of Dr. John

Riding the success of his recent album, *Locked Down* (produced by the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach), and coming off a triumphant residency at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Dr. John arrived home last April determined to realize the vision he'd had of people coming together to call upon the spirits of New Orleans and heal the Gulf of Mexico. *By Chris Simunek. Photos by James Demaria*

The Call to Prayer

Sometime last spring, photographer James Demaria told me that, on April 20, 2012—the second anniversary of the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion, which caused the biggest natural disaster in US history—the legendary New Orleans musician Dr. John was getting together with a coven of witches in the Louisiana bayou to hold a days-long voodoo ceremony in an attempt to heal the Gulf of Mexico. The good doctor had had a mystic visitation, Demaria explained, a dream of a magical get-together. Known as *Soulfire for the Gulf*, it would culminate in a “second line” (parade) in the French Quarter, where the ashes from the ceremonial fires would be dumped into the Mississippi River, which in turn would carry them, along with our incantations and prayers, to the ailing Gulf.

“Count me in,” I told Demaria. “I’ll roll around in dog’s blood and drink potions made from ground bones and dead bats and whatnot. That’s on my bucket list—I’m there.”

For three long months, while crude oil poured unimpeded into the Gulf of Mexico at the rate of 2,226,000 gallons a day, the international press was embedded in Venice, LA—a town so unapologetically Southern that residents consider anyone born north of Empire (less than

20 miles away) to be a Yankee. But when BP finally got that cap on the rupture and the spill cams were turned off, the media horde packed up their cameras and satellite dishes and, by their sudden silence, indicated to America that it was okay to stop thinking about it all.

Today, you can watch those BP-bought commercials where citizens of the Gulf States are dancing in the streets, and you can read the press releases from the Food and Drug Administration saying that the seafood “is as safe now as it was before the accident.” And yes, the President did go down to Grand Isle and throw some shellfish in his mouth, but there are a few questions I urge you to consider:

Would you knowingly eat oysters that glow fluorescent under UV light? How about lobsters covered with purple tumors? Does a plate of shrimp born with no eyes make your mouth water? You can believe the hype, or you can do a couple of Google image searches and see for yourself. A picture is worth a thousand lies.

And residents will tell you that their woes only started with the 205.8 million gallons of oil that the government estimates were spilled, and that the nearly two million gallons of dispersant sprayed by BP on the water to break up the oil and sink it to the bottom is of far greater concern. The name of that dispersant—the

one that is far more toxic than crude oil (so much so that it’s been banned in the merry isle of England for over a decade), the one that the EPA tried and failed to prevent BP from using—is Corexit.

As in “corrects it.” Only it does no such thing.

Corexit basically weaponizes petroleum as it’s broken down, making it much easier to penetrate the tissues of aquatic life. It poisons the human body from the inside out and the outside in. In just the short term, it has been known to cause skin conditions, asthma, headaches, stomach aches, vomiting, diarrhea, and bleeding from the mouth and anus. Over the long term? That remains to be seen, but an earlier version of Corexit was used back in 1989 to clean up the *Exxon Valdez* tanker spill in Alaska, and according to a CNN report, the average lifespan of anyone who worked on that spill is 51 years—and, in fact, most of the people who did are already dead.

The past two years have been hell for residents of New Orleans and the surrounding Gulf areas. Hurricane Katrina was still a far-from-resolved catastrophe when the spill happened, and today, not only does New Orleans have the unfortunate distinction of being the per capita murder capital of the United States, but it sits just a few miles above the site of



The Doctor will see you now.

an ecological holocaust that, at any point between June and November, could be lifted into the air by even a mid-level hurricane and sprayed across hundreds of miles.

Enter Dr. John to the rescue ... a.k.a. Malcolm John “Mac” Rebennack Jr., a.k.a. the Night Tripper, a native son of New Orleans who has, over his 70-plus years on this planet, laid claim to the various titles of musician, producer, author, drug addict, pimp, second-story man, convict and high voodoo priest.

And while the phrase “to the rescue” might evoke images of Superman, fresh from the telephone booth, bursting onto the scene and righting wrongs at Kryptonian speed, Dr. John doesn’t roll like that. He’s a decidedly slow creature, entering a room cautiously, like a cat that has already squandered eight lives and is determined to hold on to the ninth.

I met him for the first time in a bunkhouse in the Fontainebleau State Park north of New Orleans, where the ceremony was being held. He told me stories about how he used to move heroin across the Mexican border for the mob, and how he was once ordered to kill someone but didn’t want to, so he shot him in the leg and still feels bad about it to this day. I mentioned that I’d come all the way from New York to witness the great Dr. John conjure some magick to heal the Gulf. From beneath his scally cap, he cocked a single eye at me and responded in his gravestone voice, “*Dr. John’s* not going to heal the Gulf—we’re *all* going to heal the Gulf.” Then he walked off toward the beating drums and the fire’s light, our conversation to be continued ...

There Will Not Be Blood

Now, this story about a bayou voodoo ritual complete with blood sacrifices was really a fantasy that Demaria seeded in my head. I first met Demaria about a year before, when he brought Kermit Ruffins, the trumpet phenomena and star of HBO’s *Treme*, up to the *High Times* offices. Hailing from the same part of Nassau County as I, Demaria had a tattoo of Elvis’s TCB insignia on his arm, so I figured we’d be friends. Demaria’s a great photographer, and his movie *Treme Life* is a touching portrait of the famed neighborhood, but he tends to edit the truth to fit your expectations. So the voodoo ritual in the bayou turned out to be a three-day drum circle with a lot of hippies and Native Americans and a woeful alcohol ban.

In April, the helter-swelter of the Louisiana summer had yet to arrive,

The ceremony ended with a second line in the French Quarter.



Goat had this to say of the secret powers that initiated the Gulf Oil Spill: “They don’t understand the spirits, except the dark spirit.”

so I could enjoy the towering weeping willows layered in Spanish moss, the crocodiles that patrolled the ponds during the day, and the deer and possum whose eyes glowed in my headlights at night. I watched the fire, listened to the drums. Chief Arvol Looking Horse was there, keeper of the White Buffalo Pipe, telling us that the Earth was sick—angry even—at its treatment, which is why we’re seeing all these hurricanes, twisters and inexplicable ground quakes. Demaria brought along a few friends, including Trevor, his camera man, and Dancing Man, who, true to his name, dances in parades or second lines or wherever he happens to be hanging out, lifting his feet to whatever tune is playing on WWOZ or just in his head, all the while spewing without pause his observations on man, woman and nature.

Back at the campground, I met Reverend Goat—author, poet, spiritualist and sometime Dr. John collaborator. Clutched to Goat’s breast was his pot-smoking teddy-bear companion Ted—who’d been a bit of a Facebook phenomena long before Seth McFarlane’s movie about an identically named stuffed animal with suspiciously similar vices saw the light.

Goat had a lot on his mind, telling me (and sometimes pounding on the picnic table between us to make his point) that he was a renegade Cherokee who *demand*ed the same right to his religious sacraments of marijuana, mushrooms and peyote as the Christians had to their wine. Goat grew up in the Los Angeles area, and his life altered its trajectory when a Yaqui medicine man took him on a vision quest in Topanga Canyon back in 1966. They ate mushrooms and tuned in to Radio Earth, becoming one with the flora and fauna, until the medicine man announced: “This is the old way, but now I’m going to show you a power that is going to change the world radically over the next short time.” He then drove Goat to the Sunset Strip and took him to see the Doors.

“What is it you’re hoping to accomplish here?” I asked Goat.

“I came here because I don’t believe



Goat

there is a mechanical solution to the Gulf. We’re just not going to fix it this way. Let’s pray—let’s pray long, let’s pray every day, let’s talk to the spirits and see what they can do. Because the spirits can do a lot more than mechan-

ics—it’s been proven over and over.”

Railing against Halliburton’s Bohemian Grove conspiracies in regard to the Gulf, ranting about the numerical significance of the number 11 (the *Deepwater* death toll) and the fact that the spill occurred on no less an evil date than Adolf Hitler’s birthday, Goat had this to say of the secret powers that initiated the Gulf Oil Spill: “They don’t understand the spirits, except the dark spirit. They don’t understand the light spirit, which is maybe a million, *jillion* times more powerful than the dark spirit. It’s very simple to see that—you light one candle and the dark goes away.”

Talking to Goat, you realize quick that you’re in the presence of a man who hasn’t had anything to do with mainstream society for a length of time that deserves its own exception to the Gregorian calendar. Just as we calculate the age of our canine pals in dog years, I would say the amount of time that has passed since Goat has punched a clock or visited a bank should be counted in Iron Butterfly psychedelic-guitar-solo years. Much the same as his good friend Dr. John, Reverend Goat has packed numerous lifetimes into a span where most live just one.

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On April 20, 2012, ritual ashes were poured into the Mississippi, headed toward the Gulf.

“You know, I watch people, and it’s like they’re dead. They have no spiritual anything about them, and at least I can talk to your ass and ya know one thing.”

What Comes Around (Goes Around)

Ever since Demaria first told me about it, I’d been intrigued by this dream that Dr. John had. I’m skeptical of the whole monotheistic concept that there’s some bearded God in a robe and Birkenstocks lording over the Earth with a spiritual abacus, calculating the merits of human souls, but I do believe that dreams have the potential to affect the course of history. Dr. King, of course, had a dream of a racially harmonious America, and the world is a bit more civil because of it. But the real dreamer for me was the biblical scribe John the Divine, whose vision of the Apocalypse as mapped out in the Book of Revelation has so haunted humankind that, 2,000 years later, billions continue to kneel in church on Sundays in the hopes of avoiding eternal Satanic ruin. It shows you that, given the right press, a dream can be more powerful than a wheel or a gun.

So my first question for Dr. John concerned the nature of his visitation.

“I have a lot of dead friends who come to me in my dreams,” he said. “And my dear friend Charlie Stein came to me in one and took me to another galaxy or somewhere—I haven’t a clue where; he just grabbed my hand and took me somewhere, and the next thing I saw was living things in the sky. The people, they came to me ... coming and gathering, being united—and once they’re united, why, they can’t be divided. Amazing.”

“What do you say to the doubters?” I asked. “The people who will look at this and tell you, ‘Mac, you had your dream and you had your Soulfire for the Gulf, and in the end the water is still polluted?’”

“There’s been a lot of people coming through here,” he countered. “Each person that comes contributes something, gives us all the hope that we’re all on the right path. It’s hard to try to stay on this path when you live in a place that is so meat-world-oriented. This world is *not* a very spiritual place, the more you look at it. So you talk to some elders ... you talk to some people that are about spiritual things. What do you get? A different picture of something. It might be this little, it might be that big—but you get that picture, it’ll make you grow.

“You know, I watch people, and it’s like they’re dead. They have no spiritual *anything* about them, and at least I can talk to your ass and ya know one thing. I relate to what a lot of people are about, because I know a little things about the streets ... I know a little things about the meat world.”

I asked him about his walking stick, which had been an object of fascination for me since the night we met. The staff itself was crafted following an African tradition by an inmate at Angola State Penitentiary, and Dr. John invited me to comb through its various talismans: the voodoo beads, feathers, medicine sacks, religious icons, Narcotics Anonymous pendants

and the bones of various critters—including squirrels, whose brains, he explained, were an exquisite delicacy for him.

“This is something special to me, because it’s from a 17-foot crawligator,” he said, pointing out a large tooth. “We’re watching him disappear just like we watched the turtles disappear. We watch nature going crazy because of disrespect from man. People think there’s no balance on this Earth because of some other stupid nonsense—they wanna spray bugs, they wanna do this, they wanna do that. But we need *everything* to balance this planet. It’s not one thing that balances anything—it’s everything. If we don’t take the hand of command, do something with people, become one, we’re fucked.”

“Do you think Tony Hayward or any of the BP bigwigs at their London headquarters will hear about what you’re doing here?”

“Well, I tell you: When the Gulf water goes up, it’s going to go right past y’all [in New York]. And after it comes all the way up, it comes all the way down, and then where does it go? Somewhere around Britain. I wonder if they ever thought about that?”

Taking It To The Streets

The second line was supposed to start in Congo Square, a small, stone-paved section of Louis Armstrong Park in the Tremé neighborhood where, in the 18th and the early 19th centuries, unsupervised slaves by the hundreds were allowed to congregate on Sundays to dance, play music and enjoy the traditions of their African roots. The women wore their finest dresses, the men dressed in Asian and Indian gear, augmented with feathers, bells, shells, and ribbons that bounced and chimed as they moved. It was a popular attraction for visitors and townspeople alike, and for the slaves themselves, the revelry must have brought overwhelming waves of joy or sadness, depending on the hour of the day.

There was supposed to be a whole array of marchers, dancers, musicians, Mardi Gras Indians, etc., but when I arrived at the scheduled time, the only person in attendance was Reverend Goat, banging a drum in a trance state, failing to recognize me even when I waved to him in the empty park from 10 feet away.

I called Demaria on the phone and said, “I’m here—where’s everyone else?”

“They moved it to a shady part of the park,” he said, and then gave me the directions. “They said Congo Square was too sunny and hot.”

“Goat’s here all by himself.”

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“He said moving it was bullshit; he wanted to stay where the spirits were.”

“All right,” I said. “But I agree with Goat on this one.”

“Me too,” Demaria replied, “but what you gonna do?”

I was pretty psyched when I saw the brightly colored conflagration and heard the drums and saw the Mardi Gras Indians dancing in full regalia with their bouncing feathered headdresses that made them look 10 feet tall. I was smoking on a strain called Elvis Bud (it was 4/20, after all) when someone pointed to a skinny man in a baseball cap, sunglasses and a long, phony beard and told me, “That’s Leonardo DiCaprio in disguise.”

“Far out,” I said.

With a loud metallic squealch, the Stooges Brass Band started to rip, a thunder of syncopated drums and horns. Dancing Man, wearing his blue marshal’s uniform and a silver-blue embroidered sash bearing his name, led the procession into the streets of New Orleans.

There were no signs or placards, no banners or bullhorns announcing our cause, just the ebb and swell of breath through brass, the rise and fall of feet on the pavement. I wondered how Dr. John, the creaky-boned patriarch of these sounds

and visions, would keep up with us—until I looked back and saw him riding in a bicycle-drawn chariot toward the rear.

When we arrived at the Mississippi River, Dr. John mumbled some inaudible words that I’m pretty sure had something to do with people coming together and becoming one—and I don’t know about the rest of the city, the rest of America or the rest of planet Earth, but those of us who had marched in that line and were standing there now had achieved his prophesied state of unity.

Buckets containing the ashes from the prayer fires of the last four days were poured into the Mississippi River, the American aorta, that ancient waterway that has seen the best and the worst of us, our wars and our triumphs, our mechanical genius and our callous disregard. Swept downstream by the current, the soot of our effort was headed to the sick waters of the Gulf of Mexico, where it would mingle with the glow-in-the-dark oysters and the tumor-lobsters and the eyeless shrimp while drifting east along the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. At the southernmost latitude of our nation, it would all be picked up by the Gulf Stream and carried north past the perfectly tanned and trim bodies laying out

on Miami Beach, up the Eastern Seaboard to the melting shores of Greenland.

Feasibly, our ashes would then be picked up by the Norwegian current, where they would coast along the shores of the United Kingdom, a country whose dominion over the Earth was once so vast that it was said the sun never set on the British Empire. And while that statement no longer holds true for the sovereign nation of England, it is demonstrably correct for the corporate empire of BP, which has numerous offices in six of the seven continents, excluding only Antarctica.

And maybe, at that point, they will wind through the English Channel up past Kent, on the southwestern corner of the isle, where Tony Hayward and his family live in a sprawling mansion. And possibly, they will find the retired BP CEO there by the shore, brooding upon his career’s ignominious end, reassuring himself that he’d done what he could for both the people of the Gulf and BP’s shareholders across the globe. And hopefully, in that moment of solemn reflection, the water carrying the ashes of our prayers—along with trace elements of petroleum, Corexit and decayed Gulf sea creatures—will rise just enough to crash on the rocks in front of him and spit in his eye. ✱

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by DAVID BIENENSTOCK

STEVE DEANGELO

The head of America's largest medical cannabis dispensary explains how and why he's fighting back against the federal government's misguided California crackdown.

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

ON JULY 9, 2012, EMPLOYEES AT HARBORSIDE HEALTH CENTER IN OAKLAND, CA, AMERICA'S LARGEST MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY, SHOWED UP FOR WORK ONLY TO FIND A LETTER TAPED TO THE DOOR FROM MELINDA HAAG, US ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, INFORMING THEM THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD INITIATED CIVIL ASSET-FORFEITURE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THAT PROPERTY AND HARBORSIDE'S SECOND LOCATION IN SAN JOSE.

THE SUBJECT OF THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL'S DOCUMENTARY SERIES *WEED WARS*, HARBORSIDE HAS LONG HELD UP AS A MODEL OF REGULATED MEDICAL CANNABIS DISTRIBUTION, AND ENJOYS WIDE AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING AMONG MEMBERS OF OAKLAND'S CITY COUNCIL, WHICH ISSUES ITS LICENSE TO OPERATE. LAST YEAR, HARBORSIDE PAID MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN TAXES, WHILE EMPLOYING MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE. IT IS ALSO A SAFE, RELIABLE SOURCE OF TOP-QUALITY MEDICINE FOR MORE THAN 100,000 REGISTERED MEDICAL CANNABIS PATIENTS SEEKING LAB-TESTED FLOWERS, CONCENTRATES, EDIBLES, AND CLONES.

IN THE WEEKS AFTER THE US ATTORNEY'S ASSET-FORFEITURE NOTICE, HARBORSIDE'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STEVE DEANGELO, WENT TO WORK WITH THE RECENTLY RAIDED OAKSTERDAM UNIVERSITY, THE MEDICAL CANNABIS ADVOCACY ORGANIZATION AMERICANS FOR SAFE ACCESS, AND OTHER ALLIES AND SUPPORTERS TO CHANNEL THE GROWING OUTRAGE OVER THIS LATEST ATTACK ON PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS INTO A PUBLIC RALLY AIMED AT HOLDING THE ONE-TIME MARIJUANA ENTHUSIAST IN THE WHITE HOUSE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF HIS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH A VISIT BY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO OAKLAND'S HISTORIC FOX THEATER FOR A CAMPAIGN-FUNDRAISING EVENT, THE RALLY BEGAN AT CITY HALL BEFORE MARCHING DOWNTOWN AMID CHANTS OF "OBAMA, KEEP YOUR PROMISE!" AND "FIGHT CRIME, NOT CANNABIS!"

ONCE THE SMOKE HAD CLEARED, DEANGELO REITERATED HIS PROMISE TO KEEP HARBORSIDE'S DOORS OPEN FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, WHILE FIGHTING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FORFEITURE ACTIONS IN COURT—A PROCESS THAT COULD TAKE UP TO TWO YEARS, WITH AN OUTCOME THAT IS FAR FROM CERTAIN.

What was the primary message you hoped to send with the rally in Oakland?

The main point was to use the opportunity of President Obama's visit as a way to draw attention to the disparity between Attorney General Eric Holder's sworn testimony before Congress and what's actually happening in California. The attorney general testified that the Department of Justice is taking enforcement actions only against individuals and organizations out of compliance with state law. Well, that clearly is *not* what's going on here.

Melinda Haag hasn't even accused Harborside of violating any state laws, is that correct?

Yes, that's 100 percent accurate. In the complaint that was taped to our door, there is no allegation of any acts of wrongdoing on the part of Harborside Health Center whatsoever, except that we are selling cannabis in violation of *federal* law. There is no allegation that we're too close to a school, or that we were laundering money, or that we were out of compliance with state law in any other way.

In a subsequent statement, US Attorney Haag said

"This is an opportunity for us to step forward, claim the momentum and stop this assault before it goes any further."

that she targeted Harborside because we are the largest dispensary, and the largest dispensaries tend to result in more cannabis getting into the hands of people who shouldn't have it. That's not true—but even if it were true, that's still not a reason to target a specific organization like Harborside with a spotless track record of legal compliance. The whole reason that we're the largest collective in California is because we provide the highest level of care possible. So to me, we're being targeted because we've done *too good* a job!

Are they trying to remove the best and most reputable dispensaries so that they can't be used as a positive example of medical cannabis distribution?



Steve DeAngelo
operates Harborside
Health Center, as
seen on *Weed Wars*.

When the US Attorneys in California announced this enforcement campaign last October, they said they'd be targeting criminals and profiteers. But if you take a look at who they've actually gone after, it reads like an honor roll of the most legitimate and forward-thinking medical cannabis providers in the state of California—the ones who've created the most successful examples of a dispensary system.

Our system creates jobs, creates tax revenue, takes citizens out of contact with criminals, reduces the burden on law enforcement, and takes money away from the illicit underground. Their system destroys jobs and tax revenue, forces otherwise law-abiding citizens into contact with criminal organizations, increases the burden on law enforcement and requires huge expenditures of tax revenue—all while sending more and more money into the criminal underground. If Harborside were to be closed, \$22 million of *unregulated* cannabis sales would be shifted to the streets of Oakland. And that's the last thing this city needs right now.

Do you have a sense of whether the US Attorney in this case is acting in defiance of the policy articulated by the Obama administration and the attorney general, or if this is part of a coordinated strategy originating in Washington, DC?

We don't have the answer to that question yet, unfortunately, but I'm working to get some answers. The one thing that we know for sure is that there's just this incredible disparity between what Eric Holder told Congress and what's happening on the ground in California.

The number one thing we need to do is to call for a freeze on all these enforcement actions nationwide until the highest levels of the DOJ can review them—not just the



DeAngelo leads a rally and march in Oakland.

“When dispensaries are closed, the most vulnerable patients suffer the most—the ones least able to negotiate the illicit market.”

action against Harborside, but every enforcement action across the country. We should see if these enforcement actions are consistent with the attorney general's statements to Congress, because they sure don't appear to be.

Personally, I feel that this is a tipping point for our movement—it could tip either way. This is an opportunity for us to step forward, claim the momentum and stop this assault before it goes any further. But failing that, I think that we're going to see seriously emboldened prosecutors across the country. So if Melinda Haag is successful at using the civil-forfeiture mechanism to close Harborside—with its model of legitimacy and all of its resources—then every prosecutor in the country is going to be able to do the same. It will be an incredibly inexpensive, very effective way for the Department of Justice to entirely close down safe access to patients across the United States. And so, to my viewpoint, we either stop this thing now or it's going to have the potential to completely destroy safe access across the country in the not-too-distant future.

Will you be able to keep Harborside's doors open pending the outcome of your legal challenge to the forfeiture action?

Our intention is to remain open pending the outcome of that trial. The only way we would envision that changing is if we were raided, which of course could happen at any moment. But we believe that there is a legal path to victory, and our intention is to use the court of public opinion to forestall the possibility of a raid while we pursue that legal case.

The good news is, I've been able to make more high-level political progress in the last two weeks than in the last three years put together, because people now recognize the urgency of this situation. So I think that we have the possibility of taking this threat and turning it into a triumph.

At the rally, you spoke about the “lost voices” of the patients. How would they be affected by a shutdown of the dispensaries?

When dispensaries are closed, the most vulnerable patients suffer the most—the ones least able to go out and find new sources of supply and negotiate the illicit market.

If you have someone whose medical condition is not very extreme, who's fairly young and moves in social circles where cannabis is common, it might not be a big problem for them to replace their source of medicine. But for a senior citizen, someone in a wheelchair, or someone with impaired vision or debilitating nausea, going out into the illicit marketplace is going to be an almost impossible challenge.

And we know that those patients are going to end up suffering—seriously suffering. Patients like Jayden David, the five-year-old featured on *Weed Wars*, who requires a very special custom formulation to control his epileptic seizures. It took Harborside working with a tincture specialist for several months to develop the alcohol-free, low-THC, CBD-rich medicine that's been so effective at treating his epilepsy. You can't find that kind of medicine out on the street. You also can't find laboratory-tested medicine. So it's those patients who are most at risk with health issues, who have the most to fear from contamination, who have the largest need for a pure, reliable and safe source of medicine, that are going to be hurt the most.

Also, at Harborside we have our holistic care clinic, which gives free acupuncture, chiropractic and alternative therapies to patients. And we provide a thousand patients with a free gram and a half of medicine every week. Those low-income patients depend on us so that they don't go without their medicine.

Cannabis can be used to reduce or replace more harmful and dangerous prescription drugs, which is obviously a threat to the pharmaceutical industry's bottom line. Do you think that's a part of why this is happening?

When you think about pharmaceutical companies and cannabis, it's kind of a complex picture, because there

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are a lot of different companies out there that may be looking at it in different kinds of ways. So yes, those who manufacture pharmaceuticals for pain control or anxiety or insomnia or for depression or spasticity are clearly going to view cannabis as a threat.

On the other hand, some more forward-thinking pharmaceutical companies will want to enter this market in the future. And there are patients who are going to need pharmaceutical cannabis preparations, where they pull out one or two or three cannabinoids and combine them into something new, or put them into a unique delivery format so you can get a really concentrated dose right to the site of a tumor, for example. I think there's going to be a valuable role for those types of cannabis medicine down the road.

But I also believe that the vast majority of people will want to use non-pharmaceutical preparations. At

Harborside, for example, we sell a sublingual spray that in all regards is almost identical to Sativex [a whole-plant cannabis extract manufactured by GW Pharmaceuticals]—but we sell it at one-tenth of the price. How? Because we produce it to *nutraceutical* standards rather than pharmaceutical standards.

Clear statements coming from the Obama Administration and the Department of Justice certainly made it seem like compliance with state law was going to be the standard recognized by the federal government. Given the chance to go back and do things differently knowing what you do now, would you still pursue this?

If I had known six years ago the position that we would be in today, it wouldn't make any difference in what I would have done. You don't make forward motion without taking risks. Social movements for social justice require courage,

"I've been able to make more high-level political progress in the last two weeks than in the last three years put together, because people now recognize the urgency of this situation."

and they require people to stand up in the face of injustice—and sometimes to make the sacrifice of being hurt in the process.

If people weren't willing to do that, we would still have segregation in this country; we wouldn't have a 40-hour work-week and so many other things. Over the last six years, we've been able to build an incredible temple to cannabis—a place

that really is worthy of this amazing plant—while showing the world that you can distribute cannabis in a way that brings benefits and not harm to communities.

That example, regardless of what happens next in the short term, is going to stand. And in the long term, I know that ultimately we're on the right side of history. There's no question in my mind that we're going to win this struggle. There's no doubt in my mind that when our grandchildren read about what we've done, they'll be proud. And you know, I can't think of another mission that I would rather have in life; I can't think of anything that would

be more fulfilling than to tell the truth about this amazing plant and bring it to people who very desperately need it. So, no—I wouldn't do *anything* differently. ✨

Watch Steve DeAngelo on *Weed Wars*:



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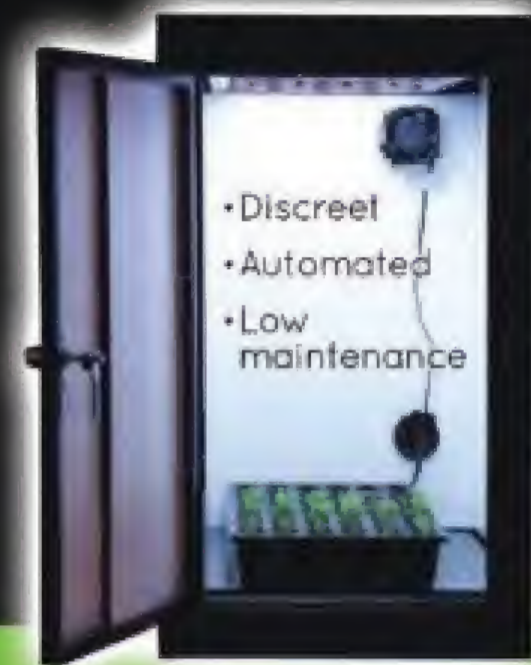


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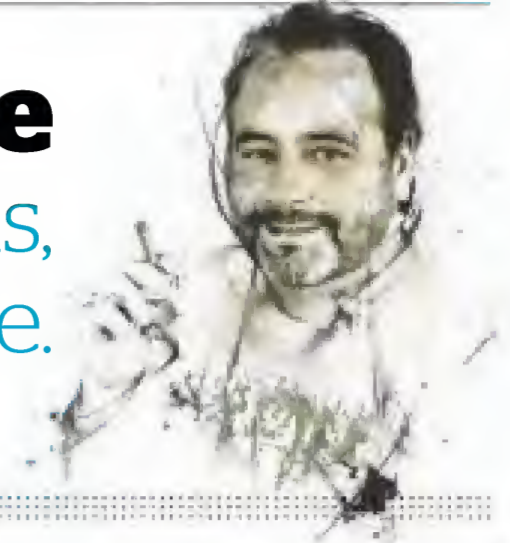
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SUBJECT: **Moondance**

FROM: **Scott Rose**

🌿 I just started listening to your podcasts, and I am officially addicted: Your show is extremely informative and entertaining!

Let me preface my question by saying that I've been growing outdoors in Southern Ontario, Canada, for five years now, using the same genetics every year. I've just noticed several of my outdoor plants showing flowers as of late July, but my records indicate that my plants generally start showing in mid-August. So my question is this: Everything else being equal, could the moon phase this year be the cause of the early flowering? It was a new moon in mid-July (making it darker), and in previous years it always seemed closer to a full moon.

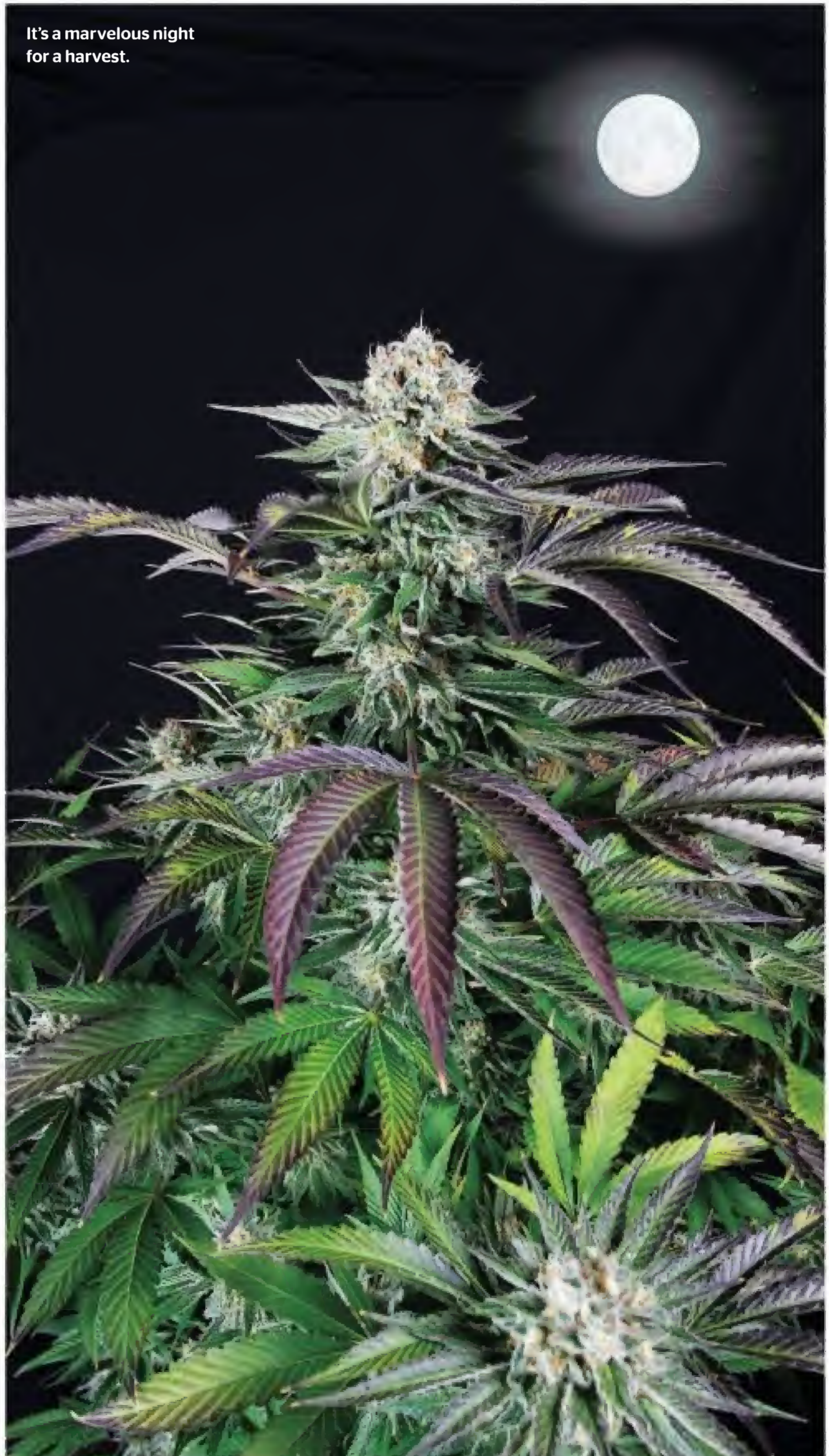
Thanks for all the hard work you continue to do—as well as everyone else at *High Times*!

Dear Scott,

Yes, it could be the darkness of the new moon that caused your plants to flower a bit earlier this year. Climate change might also be playing a factor: Unseasonably warm temperatures combined with the extra-dark nights of mid-July could have tricked your plants into beginning their flowering stage sooner than usual.

However, the plants could also be slowly acclimating to their environment (i.e., over several generations) and adjusting their blooming schedule based on the short fall season and earlier frosts in your area. Flowering times are never carved in stone, and they can shift ever so slightly each year depending on the atmospheric circumstances. Cannabis, like many plants, has a natural ability to adjust over time in order to thrive in less hospitable environments.

It's a marvelous night for a harvest.



Danko Tip: In cold areas, keep plant containers and hydroponic reservoirs up off the floor to avoid damaging sensitive roots.



Properly cured buds taste great and burn correctly.

SUBJECT: **Jar Cure**

FROM: **Jessi & James**

🌿 We cure in Mason jars. Does the amount of cannabis in the jar affect the quality of the cure? Also, is there a difference between large- and small-capacity jars, and does the amount of air space left in the jar play a factor in the finished product? If size and space do have an influence, we'd love to know what sized jar and how much space you'd recommend. And thanks for the show! We love having such an informative and entertaining podcast to listen to while we're at work in the garden.

Dear Jessi & James,
Thanks so much for the kind words. Glad to hear you enjoy the column and podcast. The amount of air inside the jar will determine how quickly the moisture remaining in your buds is drawn out—meaning the more air in the jar, the quicker your buds will cure. A jar filled with buds will cure more slowly than one that's half full, so you can use this knowledge to slow down or speed up your curing process depending on the level of water left inside your buds.

Post-harvest, you will first have to trim and hang your buds up to dry. This process should take about a week or two, depending on the heat and humidity in your area. (It's always best to stretch this process out longer than three or four days in order to ensure that you aren't locking in that "green" chlorophyll taste.) Add a humidifier to your drying room if you

think your nuggets are drying out too quickly. Also, never leave a fan blowing directly onto your drying colas, but make sure the air is circulating to avoid mold.

After you've determined that your buds are sufficiently dried, you're ready to jar them up for the cure. The stems should break instead of bending, and the outside of the flowers should feel bone-dry to the touch. But there's still plenty of water remaining inside the bud, and the curing process will slowly "sweat" it out.

Always use opaque jars (i.e., ones you can't see through) and place them in a cool, dark place. Open the jars to determine the level of moisture and leave them open if there's any condensation forming on the inside of the glass. Slowly but surely, if you open and close the jars once or twice a day, the moist air will be replenished by dry air and the water that remains in the middle of your bud will work its way out and then evaporate into the air altogether. After three weeks to a month or so of curing, your buds should taste and burn perfectly.

SUBJECT: **Harvest Weights**

FROM: **Bennie**

🌿 Are the harvest weights reported by seed sellers "wet" weight or "dry" weight?

Dear Bennie,
The weights that seed breeders report are for dried buds per plant under ideal circumstances. Keep in mind, however, that these numbers are somewhat arbitrary

and reflect an average yield rather than an actual one. They should be treated simply as guidelines, since a great many factors will affect your eventual yields. Whether you grow indoors or out, in small containers or large, and with a short or long vegetating stage will be much bigger factors in your end result.

SUBJECT: **Contamination From Hermies**

FROM: **Mike C.**

🌿 If I have a hermaphroditic plant in my outdoor garden, can it pollinate the rest of my crop?

Dear Mike,
Yes, indeed—a hermaphroditic plant has the potential to seed your entire garden, indoors or out. That's why it's so important to get your initial seeds or clones from a reliable source. Growing out and maintaining your own mother plants is the only tried-and-true way to avoid the dreaded hermaphrodite.

Hermaphroditic plants are those that exhibit the sexual organs of both males and females. It's easy to spot males, but much tougher to discern a female with some male flowers interspersed. These are the "hermies" that can ruin an entire crop, and they must be removed from the garden immediately and destroyed. Keep in mind that there are some strains that only show these types of symptoms very late in flowering (particularly Southeast Asian genetics such as Thai), but these can still be deemed "keepers" due to the fact that it happens close to harvest and the premature males don't have time to do any damage.

SUBJECT: **Cannabis Careers**

FROM: **Jordan**

🌿 This isn't a question on how to grow my medical cannabis, but on how to grow my career in medical cannabis. I want to be involved in the cannabis industry and legalization movement in some capacity; I think I'd like this to be my "career path." My ultimate dream isn't too far off from what you and your producer Mike are doing. To get there, however, I first need to find my start. I have yet to be able to grow due to the high rental prices in this ski town I'm in. I'm moving to a bigger area to deal with this. My question is this: Would moving to Portland, OR, be a bad move when I currently live in Colorado?

Sonoma Coma



Danko Tip: Label your plants at all times and take copious notes if you hope to learn each time you grow cannabis.

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My only experience in the industry is from budtending at a local low-volume dispensary, which prompts my second question: Where should I begin? What advice would you give someone who is aspiring to do well in the industry? Is there anything in particular I can do to help my career? Or maybe you could share some piece of advice that helped you do well.

Dear Jordan,

A career in the cannabis industry and legalization movement isn't for everyone, but I can testify that it's truly as fulfilling as it is fun. Working to free cannabis from prohibition can be challenging, but it helps to know we're on the right side of this fight, and getting to meet and interact with all of the great businesspeople and activists in the movement has been a dream come true.

As for your question: Portland, OR, is a wonderful place with many great opportunities in both the business end and activist end of the movement. Colorado isn't too shabby in that department either, so you should make your decision based on where you'd enjoy living most.

Hopefully, no matter where you end up, you'll have both commerce and activism as a part of your efforts, because all cannabis businesses should be supporting the nonprofits that work to free the plant for everyone, and the only way our fight will be won is if everybody contributes.

My advice for launching your cannabis career is simple: attend as many pot-related events as you can and meet the people that make them happen. The Seattle Hempfest, Boston Freedom Rally, Portland's Hempstalk and the Hash Bash

in Ann Arbor, MI are all great events where you can mingle with people in the industry. Our *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cups and the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam are also wonderful places to have some fun and learn about the plant and those working to spread the word.

At first, remember to do more listening than talking and absorb everything you can. Learn to discern who knows what they're talking about and who doesn't, and that way you'll be able to separate yourself from the charlatans and shysters who, sadly, infest every burgeoning industry. Above all, work hard and have fun!

SUBJECT: **Fungus Among Us?**

FROM: **K.N.**

🌿 Hey, *HT!* I'm running into a problem here:

A couple of my plants are starting to turn purple around the buds and on the stems. At first I thought it was just the strain showing off its genes, but then it became more predominant, and now it's happening on more than one strain. But the rest of my plants are doing great! I've searched through your website and also read Jorge's grow bible, and I can't seem to put a finger on what's going on. I've had some people tell me it's a fungus and others tell me it's a nutrient deficiency, but either way, they aren't looking too healthy. They're being grown in 5-gallon buckets with a potting soil/compost mix (nothing fancy) here in New York state during a great summer, not too much rain. Please help! Should I flush them? Should I pull them? I've never encountered

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Molds attack and spread very quickly.

this before, and I need to know what to do so they don't ruin my other plants. I've included some pics. Any help or advice is greatly appreciated.

Dear K.,

I can see that your problem is definitely a fungus. It's eating away at the tops of your plants and will quickly work its way down. Although it appears as a purpling of the plant, what it really signifies is the coming death of any plants that have already been infected, as well as the healthy surrounding ones.

If the problem has just begun, you can try to selectively cut out the affected areas and spray the rest with an organic fungicide. If it seems like the diseased plants are quickly deteriorating, remove and discard them completely and spray the remaining healthy plants with the fungicide.

SUBJECT **Light Leaks Outdoors**

FROM **Jake & Bake**

🌱 I have some autoflowering Blue Ryder growing outdoors in my backyard, but there's a streetlight about 25 to 30 yards away. Will this mess up my plants' light cycle? If so, do I have any options or am I SOL?

Dear Jake,

Outdoor plants can be affected by bright streetlights that are too close; however, since yours are an autoflowering strain, they won't be. Plants that haven't been grown from autoflowering seeds might never enter the flowering stage due to the amount of light they receive at night. Although moonlight won't affect them, a much closer light source can. Outdoor growers seeking to grow from regular seeds or clones can try to shield their plants from excess artificial light using some form of tarp or other sturdy, light-tight barricade during the evening hours. 🌱

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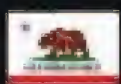
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Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

Dr. Mitch,
You mentioned Whittier's "The Haschisch" (1854) as the first American poem about the plant. What about other literature?

TC

Hi TC,
Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, published the short story "Perilous Play" in 1869. It's a sweet love story that includes some cautions about the plant, but ends very nicely. You can find it on *Project Gutenberg Australia*.



Alcott:
A "head" of her time.

I run an activist group and try to get donations. Is there anything in psychology that might help? We've done bake sales and even offered seedlings.

Carl

Hi Carl,
A recent study showed that requests that include the pitch "even a penny will help" increased the number of people who donated as well as the amount. Apparently, people are often willing to give, but if they don't have much cash and don't want to look cheap, it's easier to say no than risk looking like a tightwad. But "even a penny will help" seems to take the pressure off. Give it a try.

I'm a substance-abuse counselor and cannot believe the stuff you say against the "gateway" theory.

Anonymous

Hi Anon,
When it comes to mental health professionals, we likely encounter more people with drug problems than the average citizen. This arrangement skews our view of the world. I'm sure we could list

"It's a sweet love story that includes some cautions about the plant, but ends very nicely."

dozens of troubled people who've used cannabis. But that's not proof of the "gateway" theory—the idea that cannabis invariably leads to hard drug use the way salt makes people thirsty. Why not? In clinical practice, we never meet the untroubled. The thousands of people who use cannabis without problems never make it into our offices. Huge studies have repeatedly shown that there is no pharmacological drive in humans that makes cannabis consumption definitely lead to harder drugs. ✨

Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.

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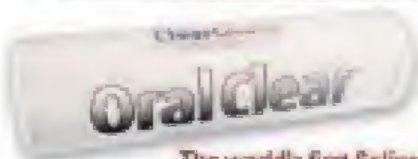


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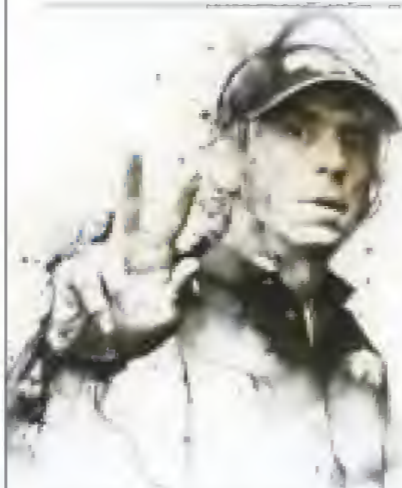
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Guns and Pills Don't Mix

A few simple restrictions could protect the public while still allowing responsible owners to keep their guns.

THE BLOOD ON the floor in that movie theater in Aurora, CO, wasn't even dry before Americans began a rush to gun stores with the rallying cry: "The death count would've been lower if someone had been armed!" Guns sales surged to record levels, and the gun manufacturers were dancing in the streets after counting their profits. Of course, a disinfo story began spreading as well, concerning mind control and how these kinds of shootings are likely orchestrated to promote fear and create a compliant populace (i.e., one with other worries than overturning the private banking cartel that runs the militaries and rules the world).

The reality is that *they* don't need to orchestrate shootings with MK/ULTRA-style programs. They just need to keep the pharmaceuticals flowing, because we have a perfect storm today of guns and pills for everyone.

When a person is high on cannabis, you can look into their eyes and know they're stoned, and that stone can move telepathically into you when you make empathetic contact. But when pill freaks are blasted on their painkillers of choice, there's usually no empathetic *anything*, and you'll seldom find a real, connectable human consciousness behind their pupils.

Although I've been lecturing about the overprescription of pills for more than a decade—as well as the downstream negative fallout that grows worse each year—the pills just keep on flowing, and the gun sales just keep on growing.

When I try to discuss these issues online, NRA stooges jump all over me. They are very well organized and have a

huge Internet presence. They are, in fact, the most powerful lobby in Washington, which should really come as no surprise since the NRA is just a front for the masters of war. I just tell the NRA

stooges that I'd like to see an end to the gun-show loophole that allows anyone access to almost any weapon. I'd also like to see a ban on convicted criminals and psych patients under medication possessing weapons. I'd like to see more paint pellets and rubber bullets in circulation, with greater controls and restrictions on more lethal ammunition. And I'd like to see compulsory training and education for people with guns.

But none of my suggestions ever make a dent in the boilerplate being spread by the NRA. My ideas can't seem to get past that rallying cry: "The death

count would've been lower if ... " But I've started my own rallying cry, and it goes like this: "The death count would be *zero* if psych patients weren't allowed guns." I think we can all agree that the best and sanest course of action right now is whichever one can eliminate the death count, rather than one that attempts to reduce violence with more violence.

At some point in time, this country is going to have to stand up to the masters of war and do something about its runaway gun and pill problems. And it definitely wouldn't hurt if the media decided that hippies were cool again and actually start encouraging nonviolent alternative lifestyles. When I made that suggestion online, I was swarmed and told that my disarming of America was tantamount to aiding and abetting the shooters. And using that logic, Gandhi was more evil than Hitler. ✨



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Dear Mr. President

A few words for Barack Obama from a concerned cannabis smoker.

WELL, HERE WE are again: It's Election Day, and I'm about to step into the voting booth—only this time, I'm not quite sure what to do.

Four years ago, you made history—becoming the first black man to win the nomination for president by running on a message of hope and change. You were the first politician in my lifetime that actually inspired me, and the first one I voted for not as the lesser of two evils, but as someone I genuinely liked and supported. Things seemed so promising when you took office: You had admitted to enjoying weed in your youth, and you voiced support for medical marijuana. You appointed the police chief of one of the country's most 420-friendly cities as your

Drug Czar, and your new attorney general issued a memo saying that your administration wouldn't use federal resources to go after medical marijuana facilities and patients in compliance with state law. It was an auspicious start to what we all hoped would be the most pot-tolerant administration in our history.

Mind you, I never expected that legalizing marijuana would be high on your agenda—especially not with the Republicans already painting you as some kind of radical. What I did expect was for you to sit back and allow the states to evolve pot policies on their own without federal interference, and wait for public opinion and political will to build behind the issue. And, at first, it seemed that's exactly what you were going to do. But now, when support for the medical and even recreational use of cannabis is at an all-time high, you've doubled down on the failed policies of the past, allowing federal raids on medical marijuana dispensaries to increase, and targeting even the most respectable organizations like Oaksterdam University and Harborside Health Center. You've also employed the IRS and US Attorneys to threaten and intimidate individuals—even state and local government employees—with prosecutions and property seizures,

despite being in compliance with state law. And—most disgraceful of all—you've refused to support FDA-approved research on the benefits of medical marijuana for combat veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. Basically, you've betrayed your own base.

Thus my current dilemma: In the light of your aggression against marijuana

users, do I really want to vote for you again? Then again, do I have much choice? Obviously, voting for Mitt the Shit is out of the question—I agree with absolutely zero in the Republican platform, and Romney has made it clear that he vehemently opposes even medical marijuana and would do everything he could to shut it down. Alternatively, there's the Libertarian nominee, Gary Johnson, an outspoken advocate of

ending the War on Drugs and fully legalizing cannabis for adults. I know Johnson personally: He's an intelligent, sincere candidate and a very decent guy, but I just can't get behind his laissez-faire economic policies. Ironically, I find the most attractive option to be a comedian: Peace and Freedom Party candidate Roseanne Barr, who favors not only legalizing weed, but also ending corrupt banking practices and establishing legal equality for all. The only problem is, as much as I love her platform and the idea of supporting a third party, as a realist I know damn well she'll never win, and that a vote for her only helps hand the presidency to Romney.

So it looks like I may end up voting for you again, Barry—this time by default, as the lesser of two evils. I can only hope that, like your stance on gay marriage, your position on marijuana will “evolve” and that, in your second term (when you no longer need worry about re-election), you'll scale back the Drug War and allow voter initiatives and state laws to proceed unfettered, leading us to a more rational drug policy based on science and compassion rather than misinformation and fear.

That's the kind of *change* America needs right now ... let's *hope* you're up for it. ✨





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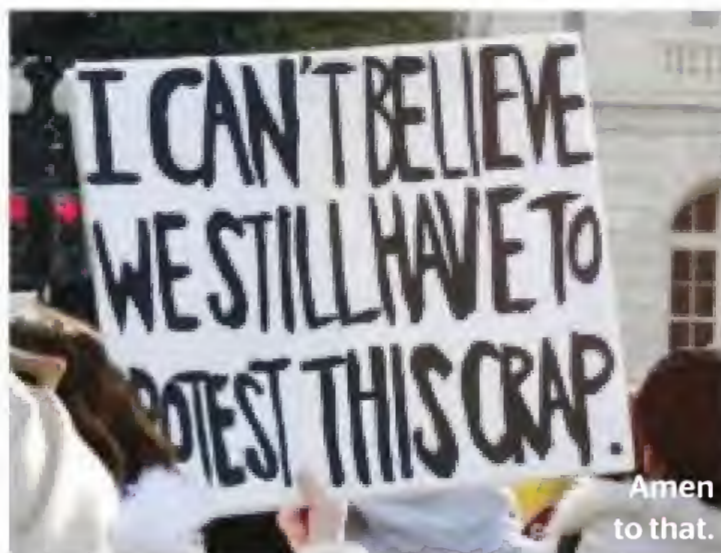
Cannabis prohibition is now 75 years old. Will it ever end?

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

THE GREAT FAILED social experiment of alcohol prohibition instituted in the 1920s lasted barely a dozen years. It took a constitutional amendment (the 18th) to ban alcohol products, and another one (the 21st) to restore them to the free market. Was there a similar constitutional amendment that outlawed cannabis products in 1937?

Of course not.

But that's how the hypocrisy and duplicity of cannabis prohibition was given life. America's modern policy of vilifying, arresting, prosecuting and incarcerating cannabis consumers, cultivators and marketers is now firmly entrenched. However, based on public-opinion surveys and focus groups, three-quarters of the American public strongly supports "soft" reforms, such as medical access and decriminalization of small amounts for personal use. According to Gallup polls, 50 percent of Americans now want cannabis legally controlled in a manner similar to alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceuticals. Moreover, the federal government can proffer no data or statistics indicating that its war on cannabis consumers has had any meaningful success whatsoever (except for turning them into convicted criminals). Virtually every governmental commission has recommended that, at a minimum, the possession of small amounts of cannabis for personal adult use should be decriminalized.



Currently, 17 states and the District of Columbia have decided to abandon the federal government's scientifically absurd and inhumane prohibition on people using cannabis therapeutically with a physician's recommendation. Additionally, 14 states and numerous large municipalities have rejected the federal government's blanket prohibition on cannabis and decriminalized possession. On Election Day, the voting public will once again have the opportunity to put serious political and economic pressure on Congress and the executive branch to end the national prohibition of cannabis. But will Congress ever actually hold preliminary hearings to finally start the process of reforming the federal government's cannabis policies, no matter which political party assumes control or which candidate is elected president?

Of course not.

That being the case, can cannabis

prohibition continue to prevail in a free-market-oriented democracy like America, where approximately one in eight citizens is deemed a "criminal" by their own government because of their cannabis use?

Of course not.

Even the DEA's own chief administrative-law judge has ruled that, "in strict medical terms, marijuana is far safer than many foods we commonly consume. Marijuana in its natural form is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man."

Reefer madness continues to afflict US politicians, but lawmakers in Europe, Central America and South America are expressing severe frustration with our country's failed cannabis policies and law-enforcement priorities. Currently, as many as eight countries in the Americas are seeking to legalize cannabis in defiance of the United States.

Which brings us to another question: Can the cannabis plant legalize itself?

Of course not.

But through our efforts, we can all help to legalize this remarkable, utilitarian, affordable and eminently safe plant. For starters, don't vote for any politician who wants to continue with another 75 years of cannabis prohibition. Get involved in your own liberation.

If we work in concert, can we end cannabis prohibition in our lifetime?

Of course. ✨

FREEDOM FIGHTER

by Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator

Kandice & Cannabis

High energy characterizes the work of Kandice Hawes.

Nine years ago, a young woman named Kandice Hawes lost her federal financial aid after being busted for personal possession. Hawes took what could have been a serious setback and turned it into an opportunity. In other words, her activism was activated, and not long after losing her tuition money, Kandice was honored with the Perry Fund Grant awarded by

the Drug Policy Alliance.

Marijuana-law reform soon became her consuming passion. She set up a NORML chapter on her home turf in Orange County, CA. With Kandice as executive director, the ranks of Orange County NORML have grown to include thousands. In 2010, she helped to organize the first-ever Marijuana Expo held at the Anaheim Convention Center. The following year, Orange County



NORML hosted the Medical Cannabis Conference in Laguna Woods, a gated senior community, and presented seminars at which respected medical professionals from across the country addressed the medical efficacy of cannabis. OC NORML is also organizing a voter ballot initiative in Santa Ana to ensure safe access for medical marijuana patients throughout Orange County. To further increase the scope

of its outreach, OC NORML mounts monthly Cannabis Freedom Rallies throughout the summer at Huntington and Laguna Beach.

Thanks to these efforts, Kandice—who also works closely with the Women's Alliance of Orange County and OC Americans for Safe Access—has proven herself a force to be reckoned with in Southern California.

Check out *HempRadio*, the weekly podcast that Kandice co-hosts.



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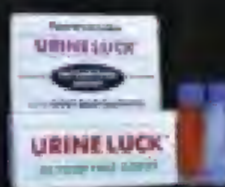
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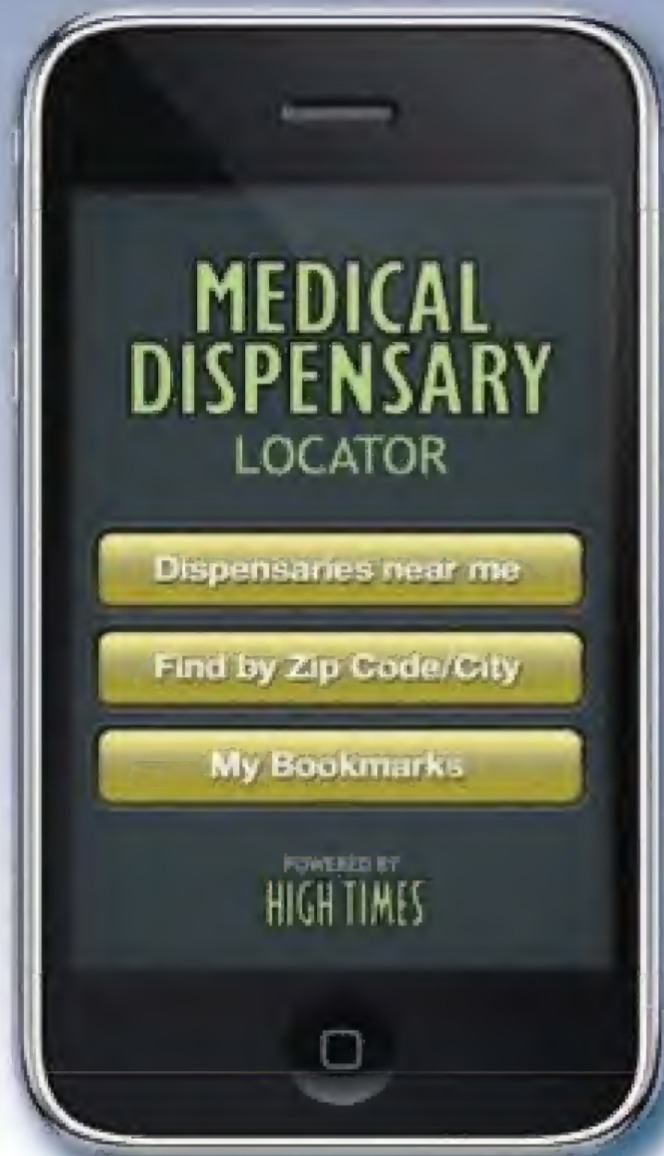
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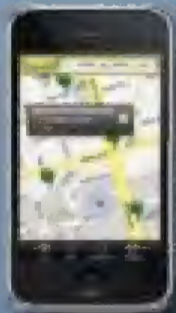
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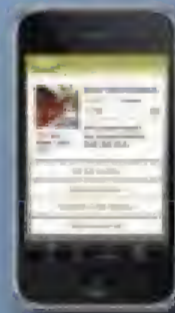
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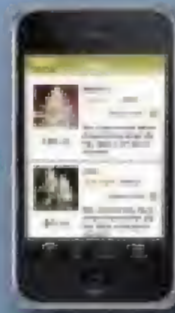
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NUG OF THE MONTH


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Greenhouse Magic

 Here's a look inside my backyard greenhouse. Nothing beats the power of the Sun. *Lauren*



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DOG OF THE MONTH


Marijuana Mutt

 Betty protects my property and my Sour Lemon plants. *Andy M.*



REPTILE OF THE MONTH


Lounge Lizard

 *Editor's note: Kudos for sending this pic at exactly 4:20 p.m.* This is a photo of my bearded dragon, Mary J, chillin' with a few clones. She loves to hang out and sometimes tends to eat the leaves. *Ethan*



INSECT OF THE MONTH

Pray for Prey

 An outdoor gardener's ally. This is a red mantis perched on organic B2 (Blackberry Kush x Strawberry Diesel) from Elevated Presence in southwest MI. *Steezy Jane*



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The growers who have garnered top honors at the *High Times* Medical Cannabis Cups share their tricks and tips for producing prize-winning pot.

► Strains of Seattle

High Times brings our renowned Medical Cannabis Cup event to the Emerald City. Get a full report on all of the top players, performers and winners.

► The Hashmaster Speaks

Award-winning hashmaker Selecta Nikka T reveals his secrets for producing superb solventless hashish while preserving all the original flavors and fragrances of the bud.

► The Magic of Mila

Amsterdam's legendary hash queen sits down with *HT* managing editor Jen Bernstein. On the agenda: Holland's new weed pass and its effects on tourism. Plus: Mila tells the tale of her bust at last year's Cannabis Cup.

► The 99% Solution

The Occupy Wall Street movement has shone a spotlight on income inequality and corporate corruption. But can its message translate into real political change? Senior editor Bobby Black attends a modern-day "Constitutional Congress" in Philadelphia.



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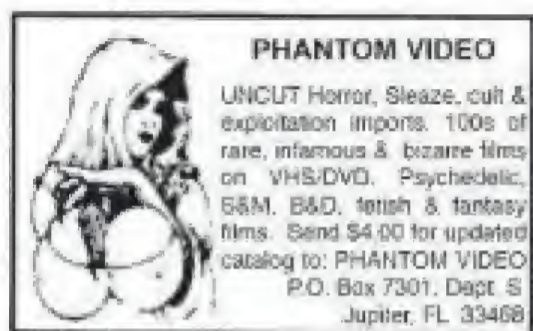
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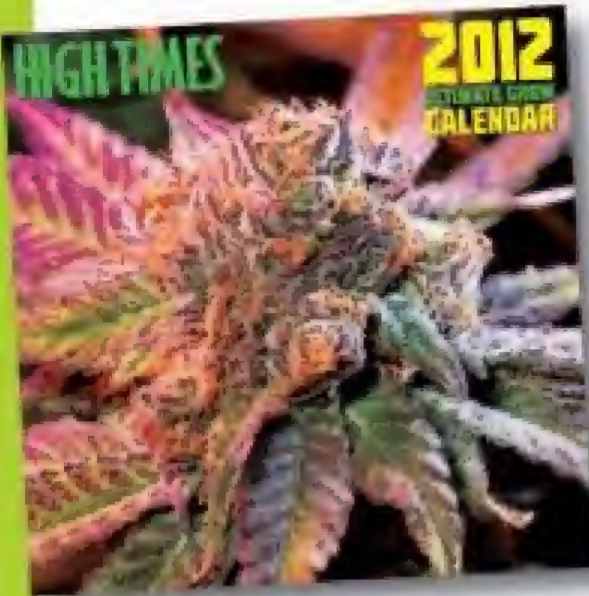


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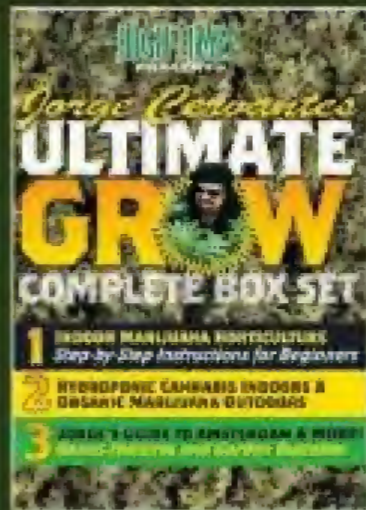


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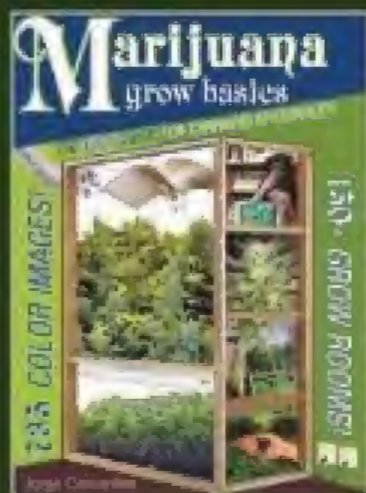
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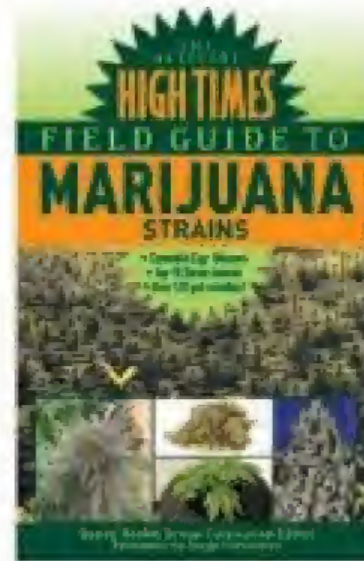


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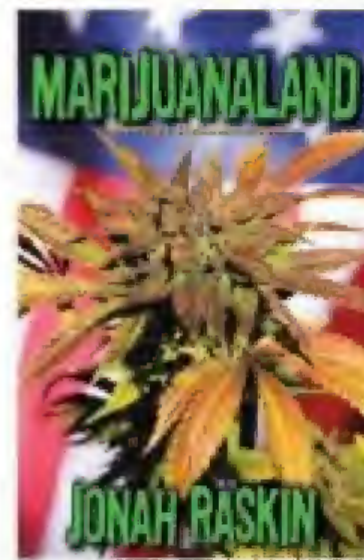


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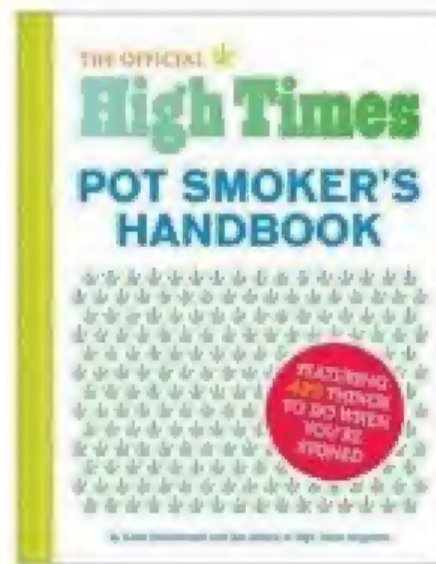
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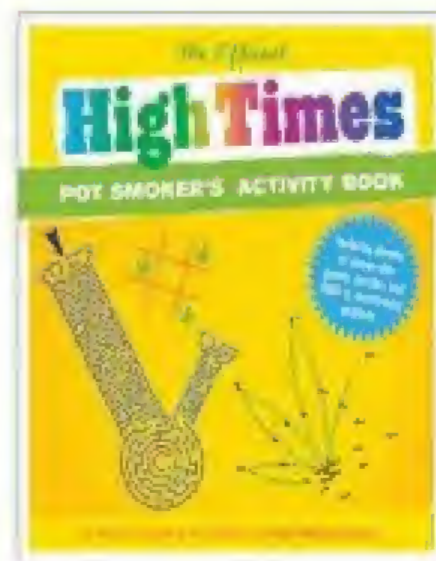
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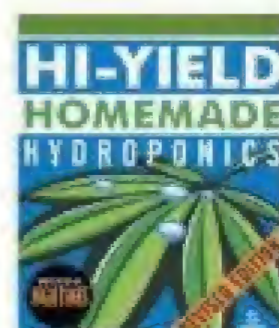
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36 **Top hat chicken**

37 "Johnny's in the basement mixing up the medicine I'm on the pavement thinkin' 'bout the government..."

38 **The Fabulous Furry Freak Bros**

39 **Vsyndicate Grinder Cards** A grinder in your wallet!

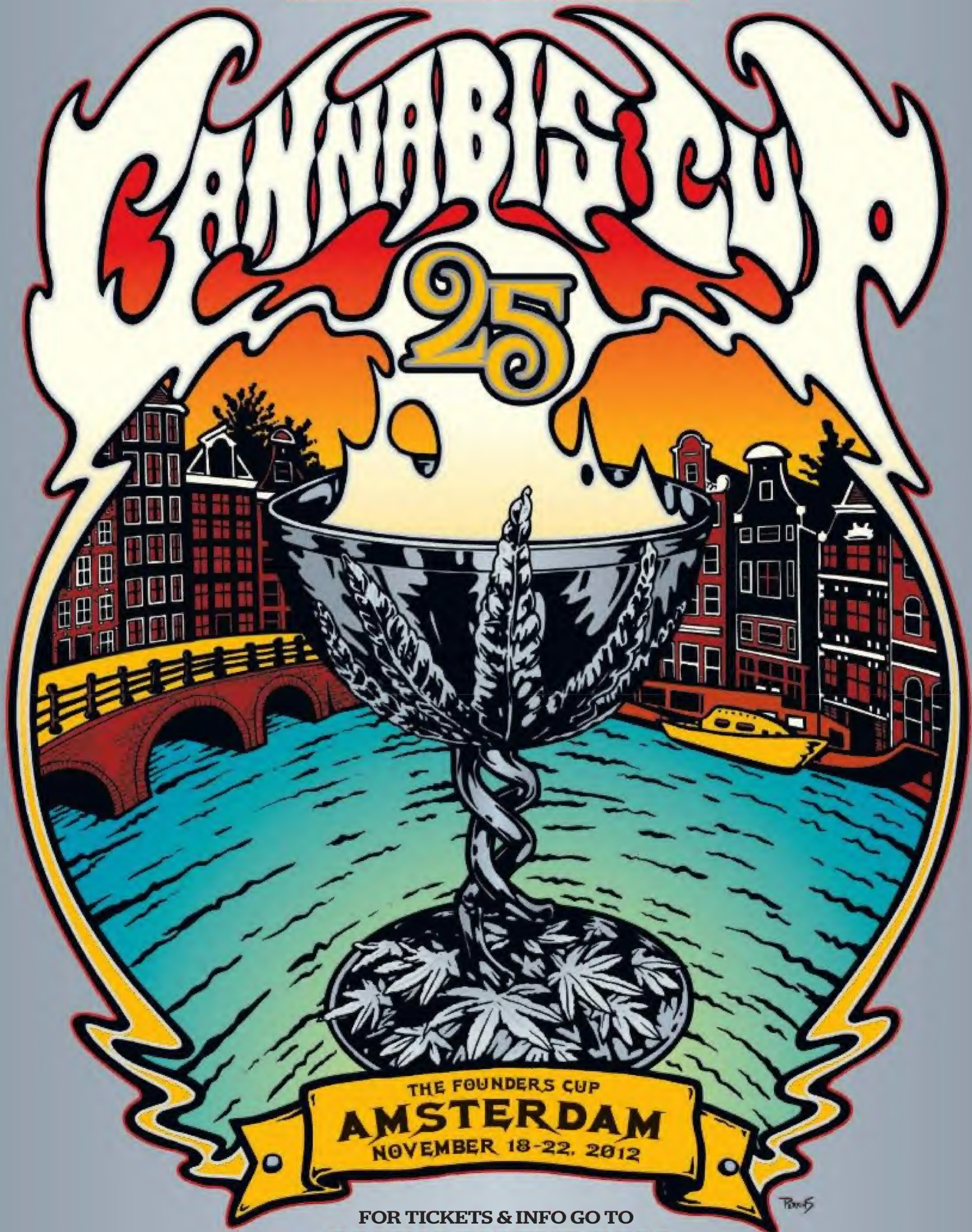
40 hightimes.com/oliverStoned

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25



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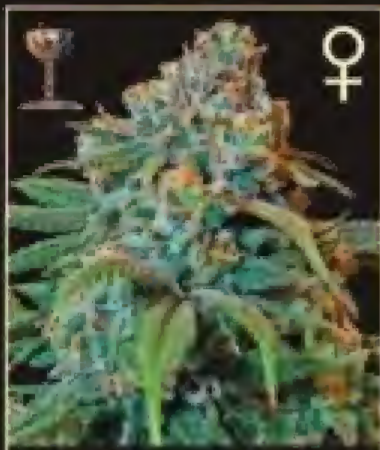
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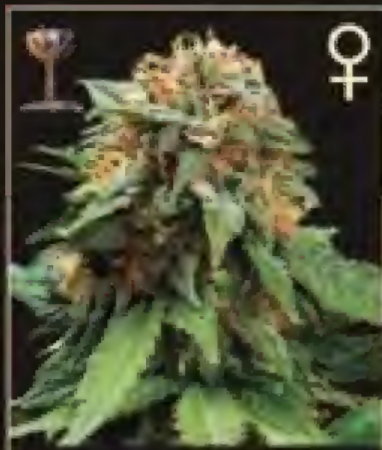
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LSD



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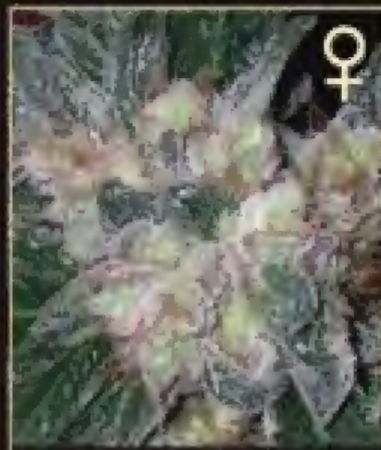
Critical Kush



Blue Cheese



Crimea Blue



Violator Kush



G13 Haze



Sweet Tooth



Utopia Haze



Amnesia Lemon



Red Cherry Berry



Acapulco Gold



Laughing Buddha



Red Diesel



Honey B



Phatt Fruity



8 Ball Kush



Red Dragon



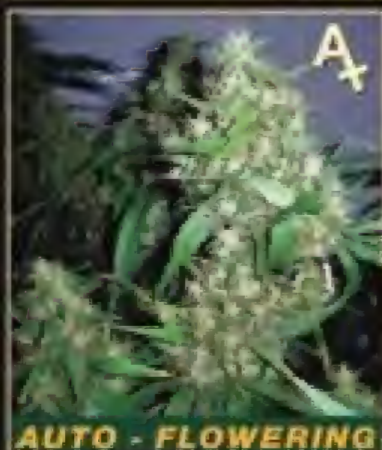
Morning Glory



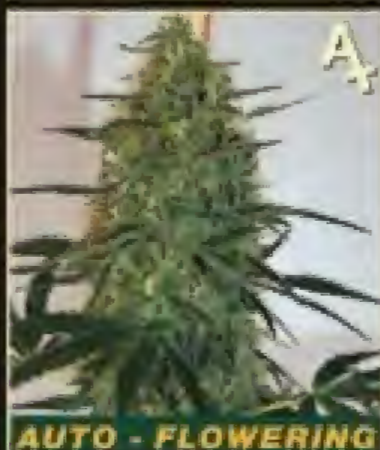
Night Shade



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Blue Mammoth



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Critical Rápido



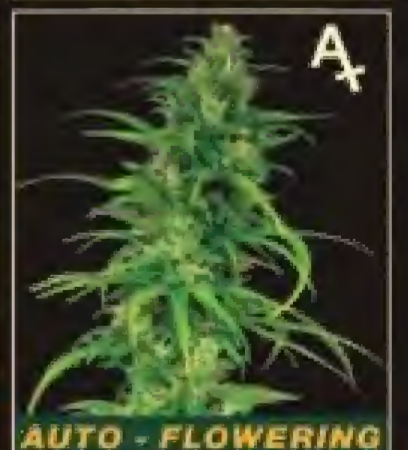
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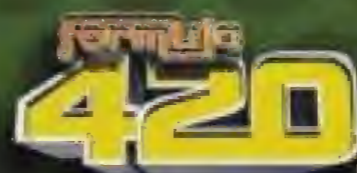
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